

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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7 Miracle Days With Billy Graham in the All-Scotland Crusade

By Editor John R. Rice

April 23, I returned from Scotland traveling by air approximately 5,000 miles from Saturday morning at 12:45 to Saturday night at 11:20 p.m. by way of Wheaton to my next appointment at the tremendous Highland Park Baptist Church at Chattanooga.

The miracle days were from Saturday, April 16 through Friday, April 22. I was in seven of the giant meetings in Kelvin Hall, Glasgow. I saw the campaign from the platform where I sat with the team and where I was introduced on three different occasions to the congregation by Dr. Graham. I saw it from the counselling room or inquiry room where, night after night, an average of over 400 people came for counselling after having claimed Christ openly. I saw the meeting from the "circus" auditorium where some 3,500 saw and heard Billy Graham on closed-circuit television. I saw the tremendous crowd of some 25,000 filling Tynecastle football stadium in Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, Wednesday afternoon, April 20 and where approximately 900 people made public professions of faith in Christ and were dealt with carefully in five churches by over 600 counsellors. I sat beside the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and his Lady and saw them tremendously moved by the meeting. I had the privilege of addressing briefly some 650 ministers in a minister's meeting, along with Dr. Graham and Dr. Paul Rees. Later I was guest with Dr. Graham at a tea for Baptist ministers. I was in the home of a well-known Christian doctor, of a noble Church of Scotland pastor. I talked with common people. I had the joy of winning a cabby (taxi driver) to Christ. I saw a newspaper woman claim Christ in Billy Graham's parlor in Kelvin Hall. I had meals with Billy, with the members of his team, with prominent figures connected with the campaign. I preached on Sunday in the Billhead Baptist Church, and in the evening at famous Tent Hall. I saw Scotland stirred to its depths. I heard the reports night after night of approximately a million people listening in by telephone lines connected with loud speakers in auditoriums all over England, Wales, Scotland, and North Ireland. I read newspaper comments, and talked with ministers, saw lives

transformed, saw literally thousands of people turn to Christ in the seven days.

The Trip and How It Came About

On the 7th or 8th of April, I think, there came a telephone call from an important Christian business man who had just returned from a flying visit to the Billy Graham campaign in Scotland. Being so blessed by the scenes of revival, he said God had spoken to his heart. I must make the trip to Scotland! He offered to buy a round trip ticket by air if I could go.

Certain engagements could not be shifted, but I agreed if reservations could be secured within specified time that I would gladly go. A little later he called again; the reservations were secured, and plane tickets were being made out.

In two days I got my passport. But in the office where I made application a woman was told, "Your passport should be ready in about three weeks!" I was vaccinated again and got the vaccination certificate. So, on Friday, April 15, I flew United Air Lines from Chicago to Idlewild International Airport, New York. There, at 5 p.m., I boarded the Scandinavian Airlines plane bound for Glasgow, Scotland. From that time on, through the courtesy of my noble layman friend and the Billy Graham party, I was given every courtesy and my way was paved with kindness and comforts.

Well out of New York airport dinner service began. Martinis were served—I didn't need any! Then with every course we were offered French champagne, or white wine, or cocktails, etc., an a nightcap after retiring in the berths. I had ginger ale!

The serving of the dinner took an hour and a half. First there were canapes. The tiny sandwiches and tidbits were delicious. The hors d'oeuvres deluxe was a half lobster in the shell, with dressing. Then followed potage Marie Louise (a cream soup with onions and carrots), Long Island duckling, asparagus, pearl onions, potatoes rissole, salad Riviera. Then assorted Scandinavian

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The Final Choice

By the late English Evangelist Gipsy Smith

"And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance (or, as the American Revised Version has it, 'self-control'), and judgment to come, Felix trembled (or, was terrified), and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, (and please note the little word 'more,' which you so often put in when you quote this verse, is not in the verse at all: it is often quoted, 'When I have a more convenient season'; the word 'more' is not there)—when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."—Acts 24:25.

This is a wonderful picture. I wish I could paint it. Three people—one, God's prophet, God's messenger; the other two a man and a woman who were living a very sinful life. Paul is in prison, awaiting his trial, and these two want some new excitement, something to amuse and something to entertain. Time, though they live in sin, hangs heavily. They are spending their money for that which is not bread, and their labor for that which satisfieth not, and like the man of whom we read that longed for some new pleasure, and offered a reward to anybody who would invent one, these two want something else to excite, something to pass away the time, and so they send for God's prophet that he may entertain them. Says the verse that precedes this one, "He sent for

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Evangelist Gipsy Smith

Laying Up Treasures in Heaven

By Evangelist Walt Handford, Vice-President
Sword of the Lord Foundation

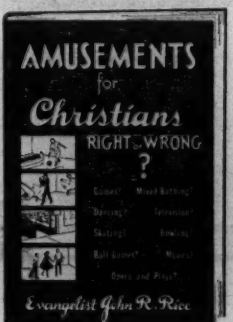
"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."—Matt. 6:19-21.

One of the greatest sins I find among Christian people wherever I go is simply the sin of living as if this life were all we were going to have. Although we talk about eternal life and the blessings of Heaven, we actually think very little about living forever and make very few preparations for the future as Christians. Most of the time we are so absorbed with the every day routine of making a living and taking care of our families that we have little time to think about the important things of eternity and our whole future life after this one. We forget so easily that the Bible says, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" (Prov. 27:1).

Again the Scripture tells us in James 4:13, 14, "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

Again we learn "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the

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Dr. Billy Graham between Dr. Paul Rees of First Covenant Church, Minneapolis, and Editor John R. Rice. Taken on the steps of Renfield Church, Glasgow where the three spoke to 650 Scottish ministers.

"The Blight of BOOZE!"

by Evangelist Robert L. Sumner

214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois

"Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue unto night, till wine inflame them . . . Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink."—Isa. 5:11, 22.

"Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken . . . the cup of the Lord's right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing shall be on thy glory."—Hab. 2:15, 16.

"Tell 'em, drink did it!" so said young, boyish Harold Roberts with shaking hands, tear-filled eyes and trembling lips as yesterday afternoon I sat and talked with this cruel killer for nearly an hour.

Just five weeks previously this twenty-five-year-old husband and father had viciously, wickedly, heartlessly, inhumanly stomped his own 17-month-old baby boy to death with his feet. The baby had been horribly beaten, battered and disfigured. When I talked with this killer of his own flesh and blood he was thin, haggard and nervous. Five weeks before, when imprisoned, he was strong, husky and healthy! Those who knew him insisted that he was not the same man in physical appearance.

Why had he done it? How had it happened? What was there about the insanity of sin to bring a once happy and proud father so low? Weep as you read the answer: *He and his wife were both beastly drunk!*

When I told him that my evangelistic ministry took me all over the country and that it was my privilege to speak to thousands of young people in revivals, in youth rallies and young people's camps about sin and its consequences, he said that he would like for me to pass on a message to them from him lest they one day find themselves in such a dreadful plight as he. That was when he said, "Drink did it!" And with determined set of his jaw he asked me to tell young people everywhere not to follow his folly. Here is his message of warning: "Tell them never to touch the dirty, rotten stuff!" The Bible speaks the same message of warning for young and old alike.

The liquor business is the worst business in America in scope, in power, in results. Booze ruins more hopes, more homes, more

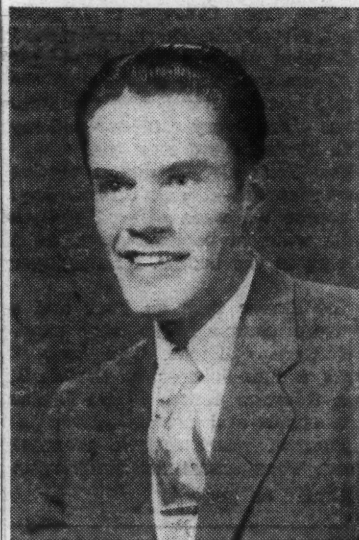
happiness than any other. It destroys more young people than any other. It causes more misery, more woe, more genuine sorrow and heartbreak than any other. It has produced more criminals, more harlots, more murderers, more bums, more panhandlers, more sores-on-society than any other. It has resulted in more poverty, more children suffering from malnutrition, more slum conditions than any other business known to man. It is rotten from the bottom up, or the top down, which ever way you look at it. It has the hiss of Hell, the venom of Satan permeating and penetrating throughout its every phase and activity. The booze business is the Devil's masterpiece.

Some time ago I picked up a copy of *The Saturday Evening Post* to read the ninth installment of Whittaker Chambers' story dealing with traitor Alger Hiss, but I found another article, "Death on M-24" even more gripping and pathetic. Accompanying the article was one of the most gruesome pictures my eyes have ever witnessed. There in a twisted mass of metal were two automobiles which had crashed head-on. Bodies and blood seemed to be everywhere. A teen-age boy was jammed sideways in the front of one car, dead. A young 16-year-old girl, with one leg still in the front seat of the car, was sprawled head-long out onto the pavement, face down, hair spread out all over the concrete highway, dead. Underneath her body, also part in the car and part in the road, was a 17-year-old boy, his head crushed flat. He died in the ambulance at the hospital entrance. Another 16-year-old boy was also dead and a 16-year-old girl with both legs broken and bones protruding through the flesh

was the only survivor of that hour of horror.

In the other car a young 33-year-old mother was found with her face smashed into the glove compartment, dead. The 36-year-old husband and driver was part in the front seat and part in the back, dead. At home in Leonard, Michigan, were the couple's eleven children, suddenly made orphans: the oldest fifteen and the youngest not yet one-and-a-half months. So terrible was the accident that the bodies of the husband and wife could not be removed from their car and it was necessary to tow it away with their bodies still in it.

Six people dead; eleven babies orphaned! But the real tragedy lies in the fact that the 19-year-old teenager deliberately drove his car at high speed HEAD-ON into the other vehicle! Unbelievable? Yes! But, no, not quite unbelievable when reading on in the article and



Robert L. Sumner

finding the sentence: "IN THE FRONT SEAT OF THE TEEN-AGER'S CAR, ON A RAISED HUMP ON THE FLOOR BOARD THAT HAD COVERED THE TRANSMISSION, STOOD A BOTTLE HALF FULL OF BEER, INCREDIBLY UPRIGHT." Added to this statement is the fact that the couple in the other car were returning home from a night in a Pontiac, Michigan, honky-tonk where they had enjoyed, according to the couple with whom they had spent the evening, "a floor show, a nice crowd, drinks, dancing." "Death on M-24" was the direct result of a booze-crazed teenager's madness, and a booze-befuddled man's inability to think quickly enough to get out of the way! The tragedy of this story could be multiplied a thousand times in incidents and accidents from coast to coast. And it will continue to be multiplied until America remembers the God of her fathers and abolishes this traffic of Hell!

The Word of God contains burning indictment upon burning indictment against this sinful business. Isaiah 24:9 declares, "They shall not drink wine with a song; strong drink shall be bitter to them that drink it." Men cannot drink and stay happy! Bitterness paves the road for those who seek strong drink.

In the 28th chapter of Isaiah, verse 1, God says, "Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine." In

the 3rd verse He says, "The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, shall be trodden under feet." Then the 7th verse says, "But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment." And Proverbs 20:1 declares, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

Governmental officials in both high and low places need to remember Proverbs 31:4,5: "It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted." Presidents, senators, congressmen, secretaries-of-state, governors, judges, national, state, county and city officials ought not to drink, the Bible says. Booze will befuddle their minds, pervert their judgment and cause them to do dishonest things, so God teaches. Our great nation is still today paying the bitter price of such conferences as Cairo, Teheran, Yalta and Potsdam, where decisions and agreements were reached to affect the world, yet where our representatives gulped down hard liquor until they hardly knew whether they were coming or going and at least one had to be carried out dead drunk. It is not for government officials to drink wine or strong drink!

Proverbs 23:29-33 warns: "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again!"

Such has God declared and with this truth fresh in our minds let us consider the first curse God has pronounced against booze.

I. THE BLIGHT OF BOOZE UPON THE MAN WHO DRINKS!

The Bible says, in Isaiah 5:11, "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them." And verse 22 of the same chapter adds, "Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink." Here is a woe, a blight, a curse upon the man or woman who dares to drink.

Slavery

One form of this blight is slavery. The words above in Proverbs 23:35 become the words of every man and woman who drinks, sooner or later: "I will seek it yet again." After the woe of the wine cup has brought them sorrow, pain, wounds without cause and a hundred and one other evils, they cling to its horrors as a miser clings to his gold. Why? The only possible answer lies in the fact that they are hopelessly ensnared in the clutches of its habit and cannot quit.

Jesus said that indulgence in any sin leads to slavery. He, of course, as always, was right! He said in John 8:34, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." No matter what the sin may be, indulgence for pleasure soon becomes indulgence by force—a slave to sin! Especially is this true of liquor! The occasional social glass becomes the repeated glass to steady the nerves until, finally, no amount can calm or satisfy the raging passion.

A few weeks ago the *Chicago American* published the life story of Singer Lillian Roth, an ex-Hollywood heroine who had become an alcoholic. She described graphically this slavery of liquor

Youth's Corner

The Editor Answers Young People's Questions

If the Bible doesn't specifically say a person can't do a thing, is it all right to do it?

No, I do not believe that if the Bible does not specifically say a person cannot do a thing, it is necessarily all right for him to do it. There are several general rules that should control one's conduct.

1. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Mark 12:39). Anything that harms anyone else is wrong.

2. One's brother's conscience also governs a person's conduct. "Wherefore," said Paul in I Corinthians 8:13, "if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." To cause others to stumble by, seeming to do wrong is a sin.

3. "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23). Without clear assurance that an action is pleasing to God, it would be a sin to do it. That means that anything that is questionable is wrong until the Lord shows about it.

Is it wrong to work in the kitchen of a place where they sell drinks, when I have nothing to do with the drinks directly?

In my judgment, you are helping in a bad business. I would not be willing even to eat in a place where drinks are served, much less to work there. I believe if it is right for you to work there, it will be all right for people to eat there. And if it is all right to eat there, then it is all right for people to run the place as it is run and sell drinks. But that is obviously wrong. They ought not to sell drinks, and you ought not to make a living from a place that sells drinks, and I ought not to eat there and give my okay, and my endorsement to the place which is selling drinks.

Is it wrong to baby sit while parents attend dances?

I do not believe that the babysitter is necessarily responsible for where the parents go. The babysitter could probably be a blessing in the home if she were a good Christian, and I do not believe that God would hold her accountable for the parents' going to a dance. However, each babysitter must pray about the matter and act only on clear impression from God. If one has doubts, then he should not babysit under questionable circumstances. If one has freedom in heart and feels that he is doing good and not harm, then it would be all right for him to sit with babies of parents who perhaps are not Christians and whose lives do no meet the Christian standards.

Now it is questionable whether young girls ought to be out as late as sometimes is required by dancing fathers and mothers.

When I hear of a dancing party I feel an uneasy sensation about the throat, remembering that a far greater preacher had his head danced off in the days of our Lord. However pleasing the polkas of Herodias might be to Herod, they were death to John the Baptist. The caperings and wantonings of the ballroom are death to the solemn influences of our ministry, and many an ill-ended life first received its bent for evil amid the flippancies of gay assemblies met to trip away the hours.—Charles Spurgeon.

when she wrote: "You know now that alcohol creeps insidiously into your life, so insidiously you aren't aware of it until it's too late.

"At first it was four or five whisky sours a night. Soon the four or five became a pint and then a fifth. And you couldn't

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AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

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Big Prayers to an Almighty God

By Dr. John R. Rice

(From PRAYER—ASKING AND RECEIVING, a book which has been for 12 years America's best seller on prayer. 21 chapters.)

CHAPTER XVI

"I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: OPEN THY MOUTH WIDE, and I will fill it."—Psalm 81:10.

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee GREAT AND MIGHTY THINGS, which thou knowest not."—Jer. 33:3.

The infinite, almighty God is able to give great answers to prayer. If there be a God, Creator of the heavens and earth, the sustainer of all things, then it would be silly to quibble that He is unable to answer prayers, any kind of prayers, and answer them to any extent; provided only that to answer the prayers would be right. God cannot lie, cannot sin, cannot be tempted. Anything that is right, God can do in His infinite power and authority.

Not only has God the power to give mighty answers to prayer, but He has the disposition to do so. God delights to answer prayers for big things, because He is not only the infinite and almighty God, but He is the loving Father of His children. If the creation of the worlds proves God's power, then the giving of His own Son in redeeming love to save lost men proves His willingness to bless! "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" is the way the Holy Spirit Himself records this willingness of God to give mighty things, literally "all things," to His own (Romans 8:32). God is able, and He is willing to answer big prayers for mighty things.

This two-fold position of God in regard to great answers to prayer is expressed in Isaiah 59:1, in these words, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear." God is able; God is willing. His hand reaches out as far as ever in power, and his ear listens as willingly as ever in His kindness toward men.

How little our unbelieving hearts know about God's willingness to answer prayers wonderfully, mightily to His own glory! A dear friend who is now in Heaven was praying with me once about a series of problems and burdens. We had agreed about a number of things and this friend apologetically said to the Lord in his prayer, "Lord, it may seem like we are asking an awful lot; but if You will hear us this one time we will try not to ask You for so much any more!" The Scriptures tell us that God laughs (Psalm 2:4). I wonder

if He laughed then at the foolish idea of men that we might exhaust either God's infinite storehouse or His infinite love and patience? But I think more likely He was grieved and made sad at our childish unbelief. God has so much to give and we need it so badly, and He would be so glorified before men at an opportunity to answer big prayers. Yet our unbelieving hearts ask so little! I think of every one of us it must be said that in our lives it is true as it was in Nazareth where "He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief" (Matt. 13:58). And in Mark 6:5 we are told that Jesus could not do mighty works there, except heal a few sick people!

Oh, we ought to ask big things of God! Many sins are mentioned in connection with prayer. People are warned not to pray to be seen of men, not to ask for something to consume it upon their own lusts. We are warned of how unforgiveness, covetousness, disobedience, unbelief and wrong home life hinder prayer. But of all the sins mentioned regarding prayer, not once does the Scripture hint that any man ever asked too much of God!

My six daughters sometimes gather around me, telling me how they need new shoes, money for music lessons and for many other things. Sometimes I have been compelled to say, "Go easy! I am not made of money. We will just have to get what we can afford and do without the rest." But I never read in God's Word where He ever told anybody, "Go easy! I don't have very much. I have already strained myself giving to others. I cannot give as much as you ask." No, no!

One of our greatest sins about praying is that we do not ask for enough. We do not take what God is willing to give. We do not give God an opportunity to prove His love and power. God forgive us our little, stingy, unbelieving prayers!

I. God Invites and Commands Us to Ask Big Things

It is amazing how many places in the Bible God has given us promises that He is willing to answer prayers for mighty things.

God seems to plead with us, to argue with us and urge us to give Him a chance to answer prayers for big things. And sometimes the Scripture gives a plain command about this, and to disobey is to sin. Here I give some Scriptures which I urge you to take much to heart. Let them transform your praying and your faith. These Scriptures show how eager God is to have you ask Him for big things.

1. *"I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it" (Psalm 81:10).*

Here God first introduces Himself and gives His credentials as if He were a contractor bidding for a big construction job, and offers proof of His ability and resources to complete the contract. God seems to say, "Do you need a really big God to do something for you? Then call on Me, for I am the Lord thy God which brought thee out of the land of Egypt. I opened the Red Sea in answer to Moses' prayer. I brought all the plagues upon Egypt, from turning water to blood to killing the firstborn, and then I brought my people Israel out between the piled-up waters of the Red Sea! I fed them for forty years with manna from Heaven. I gave them rivers of water from a rock when Moses smote it at My command. I showed My mighty power by wondrous miracles as they journeyed, and then I caused the people to cross the flooded Jordan on dry ground while the waters piled up high on their right and ran away down stream on the left. I caused the walls of Jericho to fall down flat. That is the kind of God I am. Now if you want any big things done, you see I am able to do them."

It is as plain as day that the Lord here means that He is as willing now to do such mighty wonders as He was then! He is still the same kind of a God. He still can do mighty works if people will believe Him.

God seems to be so jealous about His own great name, and He constantly reminds us that He never changes. "I am the Lord, I change not," He says in Malachi 3:6. And in Hebrews 13:8 we are reminded of our Lord that He is "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." So the Lord here says, "I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it."

James 4:2 says, "Ye have not, because ye ask not." Then this Scripture must mean that "ye have little, because ye ask little." If we would open our mouths wider we would get bigger bites from God!

It is impolite to be pigs at the table and take big bites, as all of us were taught when we were children. But this rule does not obtain at God's table! God wants His people to open their mouths wide to receive the mighty blessings He is so able and so willing to bestow! Oh, beloved reader, open your mouth! Ask God for big things. He is able!

This verse of Scripture was one of the favorites of George Muller, the modern apostle of prayer who received and dispersed over seven million dollars for the Lord's work without ever asking a man for a penny, all of it received in answer to prayer. One by one he prayed into existence the orphan houses at Ashley Downs, Bristol, England, to care for more than 2,000 orphan children. Day by day their food and clothes, their teaching and all their needs were met in answer to the prayers of this man of God. By prayer alone he supported hundreds of missionaries, printed multiplied millions of tracts and circulated a multitude of copies of the Word of God. George Muller opened his mouth wide, and God proved Himself by filling it so often and answering particular prayers so definitely that George Muller came to say he could ask for one million dollars now with as much assurance of an answer as once he could ask for a pound (about \$5).

Will you, too, open your mouth wide and let God fill it with mighty things?

2. *"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3).*

Here God exhorts us to call on

Graham in Europe

PLANS ANNOUNCED FOR BILLY GRAHAM MEETINGS IN EUROPE DURING SUMMER OF 1955

Glasgow, April 21—SPECIAL—The completed itinerary for the Rev. Billy Graham in his evangelistic tour of Europe during the Summer of 1955 was announced today by Graham's Executive Secretary Jerry Beavan who has just returned to Glasgow from a six-day trek through the European countries to be visited this Summer. Beavan reported that "in each country there seemed to be a much greater interest and enthusiasm for the meetings than one year ago, when the concept of large scale meetings conducted through an interpreter was a new undertaking. The amazing success of the meetings last year has evidently made a tremendous impact on evangelical thought in Europe, and we are faced with invitations to far more cities than it will be possible to visit. In each city active committees of organization have been formed, and the largest stadiums or auditoriums available have been secured."

In all, six countries will be visited, including France, Switzerland, Germany, Holland, Norway and Sweden. First city to be visited will be Paris, where a five-day Crusade has been planned, the first extended series of meetings Mr. Graham has ever conducted in a foreign language. The Paris Crusade will be conducted in the famed VELODROME D' HIVER, from June 5-9. Following the week in Paris, two meetings will be held in Switzerland, in the German speaking area in Zurich on

June 18, and in the French area in Geneva on June 19.

Following the visit to Switzerland, the Graham Team will visit West Germany for a series of five meetings: in Frankfurt on June 21, Mannheim on June 23, Stuttgart on June 25, Nuremberg on June 26 and in Dortmund on June 28.

Rotterdam will be next on the schedule, with a meeting in the Feyenoord Stadium on June 30. Oslo is planned for Sunday, July 3, with the final meeting of the tour in Gothenberg, Sweden on July 5.

Interpreters in the five languages are now being chosen. In France and Germany, the same men who interpreted the sermons last Summer will serve again, but in the other countries, the selections are now being made.

The meetings on the Continent will follow the same format as in Great Britain. The local choir, trained by local choirmasters, will be directed by Cliff Barrows, who will also direct the congregational singing. Soloist George Beverly Shea has begun learning solos in the five languages. Following the sermon by Billy Graham, the invitation for decisions for Christ is made, and the enquirers are dealt with by local counsellors who have been trained to help those who are making their decisions for Christ. Follow-up work will be conducted by the local ministers.

Him so He can give "great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

Again God has in mind big prayers, asking great things from God. God had been dealing with Jeremiah on this matter of big prayers because the people of Israel were in such terrible need. In the preceding chapter, Jeremiah 32, we learn that the Chaldeans under Nebuchadnezzar had surrounded the city of Jerusalem, had thrown up mounds against the walls, ready to swarm over them and take the city. Famine and pestilence had already stricken the besieged people. Then Jeremiah cried out, "Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee" (Jer. 32:17). Then Jeremiah reminded God of how He had dealt with the children of Israel before in bringing them out of Egypt. And in verses 26 and 27 we find God's answer: "Then came the word of the Lord unto Jeremiah, saying, Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" (Jer. 32:26, 27). God was going to allow Jerusalem to fall into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, but it was only because of the unbelief and sin of the people, not because He was not able and not willing to deliver the people even in this dire extremity! God reminded Jeremiah, and through him He reminded the Jews and reminds all of us today, "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh." Then He asks us all, "Is there any thing too hard for me?" All of us must answer surely with Jeremiah, "Behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee." God is able to give us mighty things. So the Scriptures continue into the next chapter and there we find this blessed promise of Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

Can you in these Scriptures see the hunger of God's heart for somebody who will believe Him; somebody who will give God a chance to do great and mighty things? Isn't there a pleading note in His inquiry of Jeremiah, "Is there any thing too hard for me?" How anxious God is to prove His mighty power. He only waits until we ask Him to give! Only as God's people really call upon Him for great and mighty things can God give these great and mighty things "which thou knowest not." God has greater things to give us

than we can know how to pray for, and He will give them if we really call upon Him for mighty things and give Him a chance!

3. *"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you" (Matt. 17:20).*

The disciples had been unable to cast out the demon from the lunatic boy and asked Jesus why they could not cast him out. Jesus answered that it was because of their unbelief, and assured them that they were right to pray for big things, even so great as asking that a mountain be removed into the sea. And then He gave that startling promise, "... and nothing shall be impossible unto you!"

Nothing is impossible to those who pray with faith! What an encouragement to ask for mighty things from God!

4. *"Jesus said unto him, if thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23).*

Here in Mark's account of the healing of the same lunatic boy, which the disciples had tried and failed to heal while Jesus was on the mount of transfiguration, we are given an added promise. In Matthew we were told how Jesus promised the disciples that if they believed when they prayed, "nothing shall be impossible unto you." But here we are told how the Saviour addressed the father of the child himself and said to him, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."

"ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO HIM THAT BELIEVETH." Again the dear Saviour seems to challenge us to ask for bigger things. The father of the child had

(Continued on page 9)

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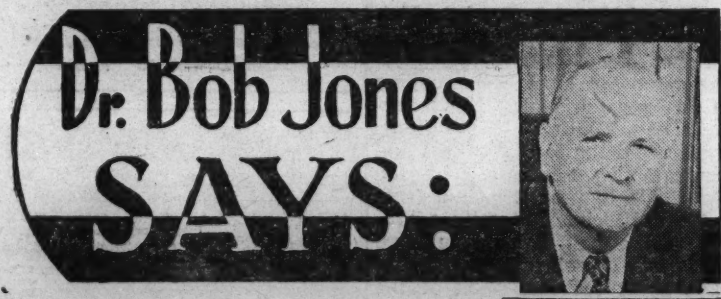
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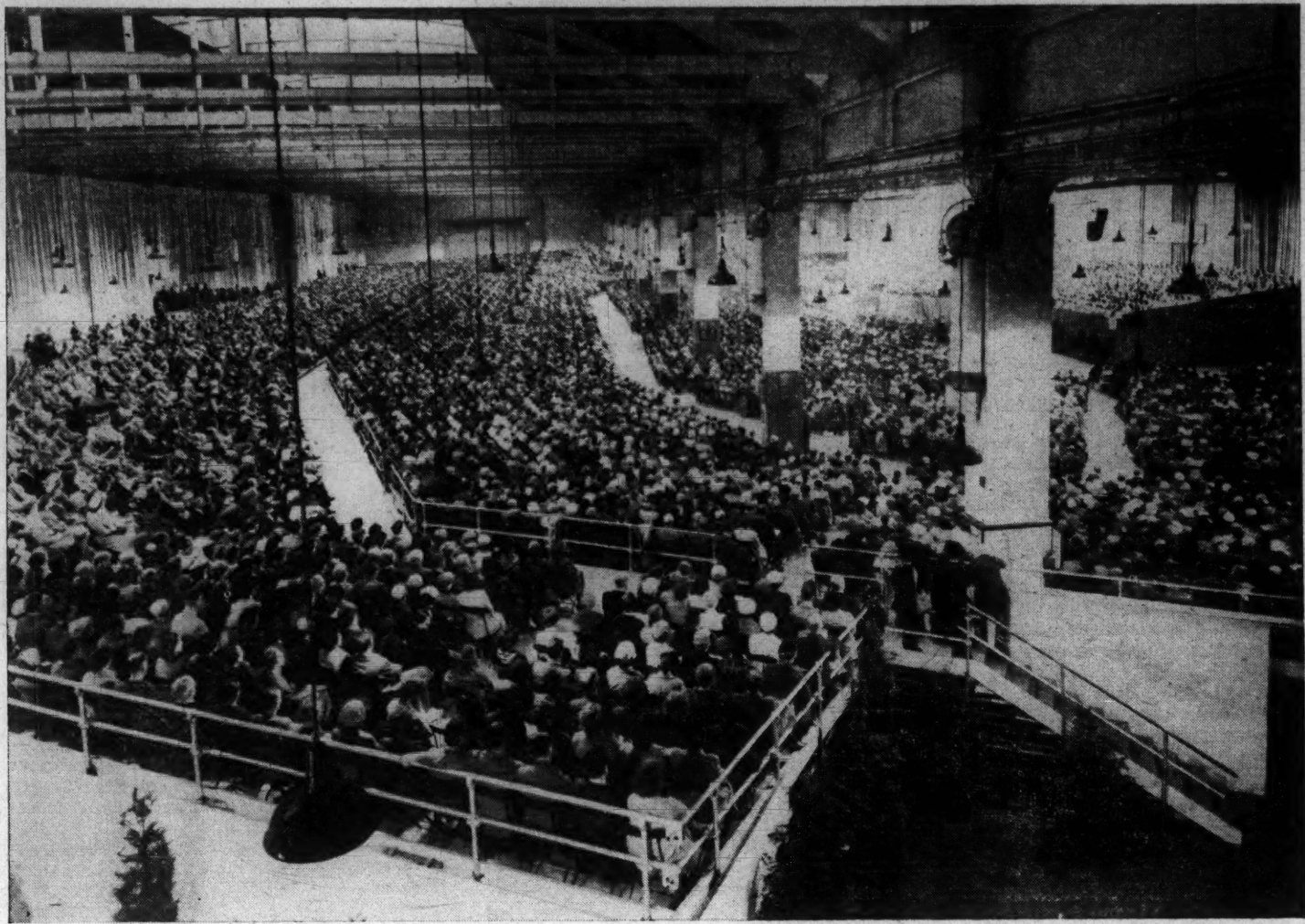


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cumstances surrender to the do-as-you-please, live-your-own-life looseness of this modern age. We are going to stay true. We need your prayers. We shall appreciate your helping us select students who can be trained to go out into the world to be Christian leaders in a day when Christian leaders are so badly needed. Please invest some of the Lord's money in the work of Bob Jones University. We do not know anywhere in the world where you can put some of God's money and get better returns for time and for eternity. Remember, we have an expansion program that is going to cost us \$1,500,000. We have got to make room for more students who wish to attend the University. We shall expect to hear from you. Thank you and God bless you.

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(Advertisement)



Billy Graham's All-Scotland Crusade

Part of the crowd of some 14,000 people which filled Kelvin Hall nightly. Two other auditoriums seating 3,500 and 5,000 respectively, were filled nightly, with people seeing and hearing the services by closed-circuit television.

7 Miracle Days With Billy Graham

(Continued from page 1)

cheeses, parfait Copenhagen, (a lovely ice cream with fruits frozen in it), fresh fruit, and coffee.

About 11:15 p.m. Friday night we stopped for refueling at Gander, Newfoundland. During the 40 minutes we were off the plane berths for those of us who had them were prepared, then to bed as we roared across the North Atlantic.

In the morning I was awakened by the steward who brought a tray of coffee and rolls and marmalade, put it in my berth and said, "One hour 'til arrival. Are you ready for your coffee?" Soon I was dressed and shaved. After some verses of Scripture and prayer for God's blessing, we were ready to land at Prestwick, the international airport some 32 miles from Glasgow.

Here Is Scotland!

It was after 10 a.m. British time when we arrived in Scotland. This is five hours ahead of New York time.

Dr. Billy Graham had written me most kindly concerning my coming and promised to meet me at the airport, then cabled me at New York. Mrs. Billy Graham and little Virginia, nine, had just stepped off another plane. They were at the foot of the steps and news cameramen gathered about taking snapshots of Billy and me shaking hands, of the greeting with Mrs. Graham and Virginia. Then we proceeded through customs which took only a moment under the circumstances, then to a room upstairs at the airport, provided for a press conference. Newsmen were there serving many newspapers. Of course their principal interest was in Billy Graham himself. Billy kindly told them about my evangelistic work, about *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*, that I was to be the guest of the party in Scotland, etc. We were served coffee, hot chocolate and biscuits (cookies to you). Then we drove the thirty-two miles to Glasgow and I was assigned to a room in the North British Hotel next to Billy's.

How many kindnesses were shown me by the party! Dr. Paul Maddox, who was the head chaplain of the American forces in the European theatre after the close of the World War, and Billy Graham's personal representative, was wonderfully kind to me. He is son of famous Southern Baptist missionaries in Brazil. He saw to every comfort of mine. I borrowed his

razor when my electric razor wouldn't work on the Scottish current. He saw that I had tea and sandwiches in my room at night after the meetings. He saw that I met important people, that a limousine was provided for my transportation anywhere I wanted to go. I had sweet fellowship with Cliff Barrows, with Beverly Shea. Beverly Shea came over from the Central Hotel and we had breakfast together. Lee Fischer, who helps with Dr. Graham's mail and other important matters, had breakfast with me, then we had nine holes of golf on the White Craigs course. George Burnham, a Chattanooga newspaperman who writes for some 260 papers in America, was there, a noble Christian man and we had good fellowship together. Jerry Beavan, in charge of promotion, publicity, press reports, etc., and Betty Lowry, his assistant, showed me every kindness, provided pictures, information, etc. Dr. Paul Rees, who did such a wonderful work speaking to ministers in the London Crusade, and now in Scotland, was a joy to my heart. We had good fellowship together. My young friend, Howard Butt, a grocerman from Corpus Christi, Texas, who has been a flaming evangelist since his days in Baylor University, and is now assisting Billy Graham, speaking to various groups, was his spirited, pleasing, friendly self, and we rejoiced in his great ministry. Evangelist Grady Wilson was out of town most of the time but we had a meal together and pleasant conversation. The Scottish members of the crusade committee were most kind, generous, and friendly. My life is tremendously richer by my fellowship there. Dr. Guy L. Ramsay, pastor of Billhead Baptist Church, had me preach Sunday morning, and director John Stone had me speak to an estimated 1,100 people in Tent Hall on Sunday night. Dr. Baxter, the distinguished pastor of Dowan Hill Church of Scotland in Glasgow, was with me at the Baxter House for Old People where I spoke (It was named for him), and then he took me to his home for dinner with his lovely family.

The All-Scotland Crusade Itself

Billy Graham was invited to Scotland by the Church of Scotland officials. In Scotland the Reformation was lead very largely

by John Knox, an associate and friend of John Calvin. As Scotland turned Protestant, it turned Presbyterian. The largest majority of Scottish people, by far, who have any connection with the church are Presbyterians. Some years ago the regular Scottish church and the Free Church united. There is much liberalism in the Church of Scotland, I am told. Yet the Scottish ministers were deeply moved by the London Crusade of Billy Graham. They saw the need to call the people back to God and the Bible and the church. They invited Billy Graham to come to Scotland for such a crusade at Glasgow. At Billy Graham's request the other Christian groups were drawn into the campaign. Baptists and Plymouth Brethren have quite a prominent place in the campaign. And it was nobly agreed that Billy Graham would have absolutely free hand about the preaching, that he would choose his own assistants, follow his own methods.

The central meeting place of the campaign is in Kelvin Hall. In that enormous building, named for Lord Kelvin, eminent Scottish engineer, an auditorium was prepared with rising tiers for the seats, to care first for 11,500. Then as the orderly crowds lent assurance the seating capacity was enlarged to 14,000. One man on the Billy Graham team was assigned to prepare and distribute tickets so that multitudes from all Scotland could get in and be present at the services. Thus, every night the auditorium was filled. And every night thousands of others would have come, had seats been available.

Another auditorium, still in the same gigantic building, the Circus Arena, seating 3,500, was prepared with closed circuit television screens. Night after night this second auditorium was packed. A third auditorium seating 500 was prepared. In Kelvin Hall a total of more than 17,000 chairs were assembled, including the counselling room. And night after night the three auditoriums were packed.

On Saturday afternoon when we left the afternoon service where the house had been packed to capacity, a queue of people perhaps a block long, four deep, were standing in line waiting to get in for the evening service! And thus people who did not have tickets lined up and waited to get in, every night.

On Monday I was driven out to Balloch Castle on Loch Lomond. Then we rented a small motor

boat and went a way up the Loch, the largest lake in the British Isles, some twenty-five miles long and at widest part five miles wide. I spoke to the boatkeeper, asking him to come to the Billy Graham campaign (twenty miles away). He said, "I want to come but I cannot get a ticket!" Again and again I saw people pleading with members of the party for tickets to get into the auditorium at Kelvin Hall, and they were provided as far as possible for one night or another. And people looked forward with proud anticipation and said, "I have a ticket for Thursday night!" or for some other night.

The deep-seated interest of the people has made this amazing attendance possible. It is a manifestation of the power of God. All over the British Isles the common people are stirred to the depths by the London Crusade and now by the All-Scotland Crusade. Oh, may God speed the reaping while the interest is at such a peak!

Of course there were many other meetings—shop meetings, mass meetings, of various kinds, meetings of ministers. These were cared for by Evangelist Grady Wilson, Howard Butt, Paul Rees, and others. Billy Graham went to the enormous stadium meeting at Edinburgh Wednesday afternoon and again went back to speak to 2,500 students of the University of Edinburgh. Then relay services the last two weeks of the campaign have been running in all England, Wales, North Ireland and Scotland. Auditoriums were wired for loud speakers and connected by telephone with the Kelvin Hall program and from these auditoriums literally a million and a half people, we were told, were hearing Billy Graham each night the last week of the campaign.

Thousands Turning to Christ in Kelvin Hall

The services in Kelvin Hall were among the most impressive that I ever saw anywhere. The music was not new. Nearly every night Cliff Barrows lead the gigantic congregation in singing "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine," and usually they sang the tremendously popular Twenty-third Psalm in the Scottish paraphrase. It is a beautiful and moving thing. But they have sung it over Scotland for many years without having results like this!

Beverly Shea sang very sweetly each night but his solos were usually not new. One night he sang "Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling." Another night he sang "Lord, I'm Coming Home." Again it was "There's a Balm in Gilead," the haunting Negro spiritual so popular in the Billy Graham American crusades. At invitation

(Continued on page 6)

Evangelist Fred R. Ritchardson, Jr.

Husband and Wife Team—Sound Bible Preaching and Varied Musical Program

By Evangelist Bill Rice
Associate Editor

Evangelist and Mrs. Fred F. Ritchardson, Jr., P. O. Box 11, Nappanee, Indiana, make a unique gospel team with ministry mainly to rural churches. They travel in their own house trailer.

Fred is sound in the Scriptures, very earnest and very busy. His preaching is fiery and straight-from-the-shoulder.

Fred can not only preach, but he can sing and lead singing. They carry an organ and a trumpet which Mrs. Ritchardson plays, and she is also a good pianist.

Evangelist and Mrs. Ritchardson work on the expense-love offering basis and are willing to help any church where there is a good opportunity to win souls to Christ.

Pastors Say

Rev. Clyde Rodabaugh of the Terre Haute Bible Center says: "The clear-cut gospel message of our brother who desires to see souls saved is that which has blessed our people and caused them to appreciate the ministry of Evangelist Ritchardson. His messages also are of real help to God's people, urging separation from the things of the world and faithfulness to our blessed Lord. With the help of Mrs. Ritchardson at the piano, organ, and trumpet and assisting in vocal numbers, the usefulness of Evangelist Ritchardson's services are made even more effective. Any pastor looking forward to a real evangelistic series of meetings cannot go wrong in securing our brother for such meetings."

And Rev. J. Franklin Arthur, First Baptist Church of Delphi, Indiana, says, "Evangelist and Mrs. Ritchardson make an effective team for any church wishing a rounded spiritual ministry of music and preaching messages for a series of meetings. Mr. Ritchardson preaches a sound, passionate gospel message in a series of illustrated messages on the Scene-O-Felt with colored lights . . . are sound and effective, too, as well as a drawing card for their campaigns."

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George E. Hedberg, Executive Director

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Evangelist Clifton W. Brannon Accepts Challenge

Below we print in full a special prayer request from the editor's good friend, and God's anointed preacher, Evangelist Clifton W. Brannon of 626 Electra Street, Longview, Texas. Note his urgent request for prayer for the great campaign anticipated in Greater Los Angeles, May 22-June 19.

Dear Dr. Rice:

This is a special news report on what God is doing in revivals where He is using us, together with an urgent request for prayer.

We believe you will rejoice to know what God has done through us. During March, there were 866 who accepted Christ as Saviour or joined the church in our revivals in Alabama, Florida and Texas. There were 29 of this number who were received by letter, the remaining 837 being on profession of faith or for baptism. This overwhelming evidence of God's mighty Hand upon our ministry humbles us. We do not know of a month during the last six years of continuous evangelism when we have had more definite first-time decisions for Christ (this ministry was limited to single-church evangelism). Candidates were baptized every night during March except five. Only God could do this (I Cor. 3:6).

Dr. Rice, we believe God is answering your prayers, so please continue to pray daily for His continued blessings upon our ministry. Ask the Lord to endue us with power to persuade men. As you know, we have only been home three weeks in six years, and have not returned to our residence to rest since Christmas. We need your prayers for continued strength. Please claim Isaiah 40: 29-31, in our behalf.

Special Request

Our special request for prayer is for The United Crusade for Christ, East San Gabriel Valley, Los Angeles, California, May 22-June 19. Five years ago Christ for Greater Los Angeles, which sponsored Billy Graham in the Los Angeles meeting, began negotiating with us for revival. They endeavored to obtain our services for their Hollywood Bowl Campaign in 1950. We did not feel the leadership of the Holy Spirit to accept such a great challenge. They have continually sought our services through the past 50 months. After much prayer and consideration, we now feel impressed to accept the challenge and conduct the campaign above mentioned. We do so realizing our unworthiness and helplessness without the power of prayer. Eddy Nicholson, one of Southern Baptists' most talented evangelistic singers, will conduct the music during this crusade beginning May 22.

Will you ask the great host of subscribers to your great paper to join us in prayer for this Los Angeles area campaign. Please pray that Eddy and I will be used of God in an unusual way to bring revival to the Los Angeles for Christ Campaign.

Often we have heard, "It is Revival or Ruin for America." We believe those words to be true. God's call to Nineveh to repent, we believe, is God's cry to America today. The third world war is closer than we think, if we do not repent. God help us save America from Divine Judgment now.

Will you please write us by return mail, assuring us you will request your subscribers to pray daily for this ministry? When we get to Glory, they may share with us the eternal joy of souls won to Christ as a result of their prayers.

I believe in your great prayer life. You have taught America to pray in your great book, "Asking and Receiving." I want to ask you personally to pray for me.

Sincerely Yours in the Lord's work,
Clifton W. Brannon

P. S. Please pray for the Association-wide Revival sponsored by twenty-nine Baptist churches in Durant, Oklahoma, beginning the last of June. Eddy and I will need your prayers.

Book Reviews

BOOK REVIEWS IN THIS COLUMN WILL USUALLY BE BY JUDGES OF THE SWORD BOOK CLUB AND WILL BE SIGNED.

EGERMEIER'S BIBLE STORY BOOK by Elise E. Egermeier, The Warner Press, Anderson, Indiana. Standard edition: 640 pages, \$3.95; Deluxe edition: 744 pages, \$5.50.

Some of the brightest memories I have of my boyhood days were those evening hours we spent before the fireplace before going to bed. My big dad sat in his large rocking chair, my small mother sat in her small rocking chair, and Joe and I sat beside them. Usually there was a large pan of popcorn we ate as we talked and listened. Perhaps dad would begin the evening with a colorful story of his early cowboy days. Then perhaps mother would read us a story from the *Saturday Evening Post*. It was lots of fun and all of us knew that splendid warmth of heart that love and fellowship can bring to a Christian family. Then, the climax of the evening, dad would pick up his large Bible and read one of the wonderful Bible stories. Often this would be followed by a story from an old, dog-eared, tattered Bible story book. I have forgotten the name of it but Grandpaw Somebody-or-other told Bible stories to his grandchildren. As he told the story, they would ask questions and he would answer. It was very interesting to us and Dad and Mother made Bible stories live for Joe and me.

Before I was old enough to go to school I knew almost every Bible story I know today! And I have never forgotten them. They not only taught me much about the Bible, but they sealed my faith—I believe Bible stories to be true today just as I believed them to be true when I was just a little boy. There is no way on earth to estimate the value of those happy hours of storytelling around the fireplace before we had prayer and went to bed.

Since Bible stories meant so much to me, I am persuaded they can mean as much to my children. So we make much of Bible stories here on the Bill Rice Ranch. We read the Bible every day whether we are at home on the ranch or off in revival meetings. And we make much of Bible stories.

In the summer when deaf children come to be with us, we tell them stories from the Bible, too. Perhaps the plainest, simplest Bible teaching and preaching in the world is simply to tell a Bible story and then make an application. A wonderful lesson on courage and faith can be learned from Daniel in the lions' den. The evil results of rebellion can be taught easily from the story of Jonah; what a wonderful example of heroism may be found in the story of David and Goliath; what a lesson of faith can be learned from the story of Naaman; of trust to be learned from Abraham who went to offer Isaac, etc.

We have a number of the finest Bible story books in our home, and I earnestly recommend to you that you secure a good, comprehensive Bible story book such as *Egermeier's Bible Story Book*. The stories in this book cover the major Bible events from Genesis to Revelation. The reading of this book will prove to be a Bible education for adults as well as children and I heartily recommend this book to you.

The book is profusely illustrated with wonderful pictures that grownups as well as children will love. Not only your children but your children's children will rise up and call you blessed if you will make the stories in this book a vital part of your daily family life.

EVANGELIST BILL RICE

THE CHILD'S STORY BIBLE by Catherine F. Vos, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan. 732 pages, \$3.95.

This volume is just as nearly perfect as any that I have seen. It contains some 700 pages, divided into two parts: Part One with 110 chapters of Old Testament

Dr. Appelman's newest book now ready . . .

Formula for Revival

Reviewed by Viola Walden, Secretary to Dr. Rice

"This town's lousy with them!" exclaimed one small boy to another as they stopped to read the sign above the Sword Book Room here in Wheaton. It bore the name, "John R. Rice, D.D."

When the manuscript on *Formula for Revival* by Dr. Hyman Appelman was sent us by Tennessee Temple schools to consider for possible publication, frankly, I felt much the same about another book on revival as did the little boy about the many "D.D.'s" in Wheaton, already having several books on revival of our own. Dr. Rice seemed somewhat hesitant, too, when the manuscript came because we always have more than we can do, and publish only a few of the manuscripts sent us. He asked Walt Handford to read it first; he was deeply impressed. Then Dr. Rice read it carefully and likewise seemed intensely interested in it. Of course, I thought, they would be, as evangelists—but what about the common folk readers with whom we deal?

Nevertheless Dr. Rice ordered the publication of the book. It fell my lot to copyread it, and I did not look forward too happily to the task. But my, what a surprise I got! I found it so thought-provoking, so heart-warming, so

soul-stirring that I could hardly concentrate on correcting the manuscript.

And you will enjoy every page too. Not only evangelists, but also pastors, missionaries, laymen and laywomen will find it a rich, rich blessing. I believe you will discover it to be one of the most convincing, Spirit-empowered blueprints and pleas for revival in many years. While the book is composed of lectures on revival given before the student body of Tennessee Temple Schools last year, the eloquent, though simple, soul-stirring language of the gifted author is beautifully and challengingly retained. Having read several of Dr. Appelman's good books, I find *Formula for Revival* one of the best.

Being messages delivered from a heart warmed by the fires of revival, it reads like a fast-moving, action-packed novel, though at the same time being most realistic and challenging to the heart and the will. Dr. Appelman writes out of a realm of rich personal experience in revival work, with a burning passion for souls and a deep desire to exalt the Saviour.

Dr. Lee Roberson, president of

Destructive Criticism

By James DeForest Murch

"Liberals" have always denied the unity of the Pentateuch and its Mosaic authorship. For many years publishers and writers of Sunday School literature were loath to disseminate this heresy but lately it has begun to appear in Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist materials widely used by evangelicals.

The *Know Your Bible* series by Roy L. Smith spearheaded this destructive criticism in sugar-coated capsules for the Methodists. Dr. Smith does not so much as intimate that anybody believes Moses wrote the five books or that they have an inherent unity. A Methodist Sunday School quarterly says, "Folks used to think that

Moses wrote all these books, but the best Bible scholars now tell us this is not so."

Christ believed in both their unity and Mosaic authorship (see John 8:5; Mark 12:26; Romans 10:5; Acts 3:22; Acts 15:21; II Corinthians 3:15; Luke 16:31; Luke 24:44) but He evidently does not "rate" with the "best Bible scholars."

This fruit of destructive criticism is just one of many. Pastors, Sunday School superintendents, teachers and pupils should be constantly alert to spot such poison and refuse to use literature containing it.

stories, Part Two with 93 chapters of New Testament stories. It has 24 full-page magnificent illustrations, in addition to perfectly beautiful front end and back end sheets. The stories, true to the Bible text, are brief and therefore, lend themselves to variety of uses. This is a home volume for every member of the household.

DR. JOHN L. HILL

THE MOODY BIBLE STORY BOOK, Moody Press, Chicago, Illinois. 639 pages, \$4.95.

From one's first introduction to the *Moody Bible Story Book* through its colorful jacket with the picture of David and Goliath to the Scripture index at its conclusion this is an excellent volume for teaching the Bible at home, in Sunday School, in Vacation Bible School, Child Evangelism, and the like. The stories are briefly, pointedly, and adequately told. They arouse interest on the part of little children, and also by adults. Invaluable in the Christian home.

DR. V. RAYMOND EDMAN

THE WONDER BOOK of BIBLE STORIES by David Kyles, John de Graff, Inc., New York 10, New York. 264 pages, \$3.

The book is excellent both from the point of view of content and physical make-up. The stories are well told, brief and simple. Any normal child will have no difficulty understanding them. This book is smaller and necessarily leaves out much which some other books contain.

DR. T. ROLAND PHILIPS

A PRIEST SPEAKS HIS MIND: Return to Protestant Faith of His Fathers, by Rev. W. E. R. O'Gorman.

This Irish priest has been a

Tennessee Temple Schools, says in the introduction:

"We know that it is the sincere prayer of Dr. Appelman that thousands of his friends will receive inspiration from these addresses. It is the earnest prayer of the faculty and students of Tennessee Temple Schools that people throughout the nation will be blessed by reading Dr. Appelman's fervent, passionate words—as we were blessed, stirred, and moved by hearing them."

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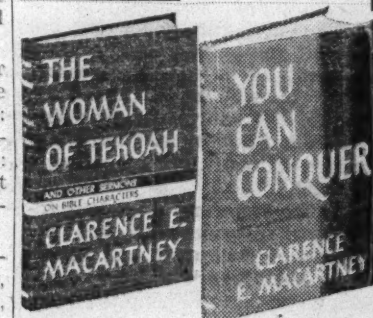
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JULY 3-9

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May we make a suggestion? July 3-9 is the week of the Sword Conference on Revival and Soul Winning at Lake Louise, Toccoa, Georgia. A wonderful program has been planned with Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., Dr. Lee Roberson, Evangelist Bill Rice and Dr. John R. Rice. Dr. Elmer Piper is in charge of the music and we guarantee that you will go home with a song in your heart.

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For information or registration write to:

Mr. A. J. Philippi, Director
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Laying Up Treasure in Heaven

(Continued from page 1)

word of the Lord endureth for ever . . ." (I Pet. 1:24, 25).

By inspiration of God Paul tells the Philippian Christians that one of the marks of the enemies of the cross of Jesus Christ is that they "mind earthly things" and "whose god is their belly" (Phil 3:19). How wicked and terrible it is for Christians to live as if there were no eternity and to plan as if this life were all that is promised!

We might paraphrase the words of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 6:19 and 20 to read, "Don't spend so much of your time making this world your home, in serving this life—that you have little or no time to spend in laying up treasure where it will really count—in Heaven. Get your mind off unimportant details of this life and plan; prepare and work for tomorrow in Heaven."

Oh, the transient, fleeting treasure and pleasures of this life which soon will melt and vanish away! How foolish to be so occupied with these things that you have little time for God and for eternity!

I am thinking of a very dear friend of mine who was suddenly taken to be with the Lord about three months ago. One night while in a nominating committee meeting I was called to the phone and given the shocking news that Grace Hardman had been instantly killed in an automobile accident while she was on the way to pick up the junior boys in her Sunday School class. Mine was the difficult and heart-breaking job of telling her husband, George, that Grace was gone. While preparing for the funeral message I took Grace's Bible and found the very wonderful phrase in Luke 19:13 underlined, ". . . Occupy till I come." In a very unusual way Grace had learned to see that all of her time, talents, energy, and money were invested for eternity. For her the money that God had entrusted her with was merely a tool to help get out the Gospel. Rarely did she spend much on herself, but always had the money to use for the Lord. She had learned the secret of investing everything she had where it would do the most good—in eternity.

I wonder if you have learned today the tremendously important lesson of laying up for yourself treasure in Heaven where you will reap the best interest on your money and do the most good for God. If God should reach down and take your life today, would you have treasure laid up in Heaven?

A Wise Investment

I am more convinced than ever that THE SWORD OF THE LORD is doing more than any other single agency today to stir revival fires, bring the nation to its knees in repentance and confession, and to call us back to old-fashioned revivals and evangelism. As I dictate this article I am in a blessed revival with Rev. Al Thornton, pastor

of the Calvary Baptist Church in Jefferson City, Missouri. Brother Thornton for years has been an ardent friend of THE SWORD OF THE LORD and Dr. Rice. As we were driving along yesterday Brother Thornton said, "I have sent hundreds of subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD and can think of no better way to invest my money for the Lord."

Yesterday I had blessed fellowship with Evangelist Ralph Davidson of Coffeyville, Kansas. He is in a meeting in a nearby town. He, too, told what a tremendous blessing THE SWORD had been to him in his ministry. Two of the most earnest soul-winning families in the church here receive THE SWORD regularly. I know that wherever I go I can count on SWORD subscribers to be thoroughly "sold" on winning souls and find that they know more about how to do it than anyone else.

A Special Need

I don't know of another place in America or around the world where a dollar invested for Jesus Christ will do as much good to win the lost and revive Christians as a dollar given to the Sword of the Lord Foundation. I believe Christians ought to support their local churches and give generously to their own local work. But I also feel certain that God will lead many of our friends to help us in our work here at the Sword of the Lord. Money invested here will bring greater rewards in Heaven than nearly anything else I know of. Here is one of the finest ways you can "lay up treasure in heaven."

In 1952 when additional buildings were needed for the Sword of the Lord Foundation office space, the Singspiration Building was purchased at a cost of \$52,000. At that time friends joined with us to help us pay \$25,000 on the building in a few months' time. Since that time gifts from our friends have reduced the amount owing on the building to \$19,000. One of the best ways I know to prepare for the construction of our new building would be to free this Singspiration office building (we call it building No. 2) of debt. Our contract calls for paying off the building at \$2,000 a year in semi-annual installments. In the nine and a half years it would take to pay off this mortgage, \$4,750 would have been invested in interest payments on the money.

As we have prayed it seems one of the best ways we could prepare for the future is to raise in a short campaign now the \$19,000 necessary to complete this building payment. We are praying that God will lay it on the heart of thousands of our friends to join with us

Have you read the ads in this issue?

He Lives . . .

Blest morning! whose first dawning ray
Beheld the Son of God
Arise triumphant from the grave,
And leave His dark abode.

Wrapt in the silence of the tomb
The Great Redeemer lay,
Till the revolving skies had brought
The third, the appointed day.

Hell and the grave combined their force
To hold our Lord in vain;
Sudden the Conqueror arose,
And burst their feeble chain.

Salvation and immortal praise
To our victorious King!
Let heaven and earth, and rocks and seas,
With glad hosannas ring.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
To God Whom we adore,
Be glory, as it was, and is,
And shall be evermore. Amen.

I WATTS

to pray and give to meet this need now. Here is a definite opportunity for you today to have a strong, large part in a soul-winning work and to be investing in eternal treasure.

Letter Month Gifts

May is Letter Month at the Sword of the Lord. To all those who write during May we are offering absolutely free the unusual 48-page pamphlet, *Amusements for Christians*. This is chock-full of answers to questions Christians are asking everywhere today. Dr. Rice has taken time to search out the Scriptures and give the Bible answers to these things that perplex many Christians. In this booklet are answered the problems many face regarding movies, the dance, television, sports and recreation, and a host of other things. Remember it will be given free to all who write during Letter Month and ask for it.

Then we have prepared an unusual premium for all those who send \$5 or more to the Building Fund during this campaign. Dr. Rice and his six daughters have prepared a wonderful Gospel recording for you. It is unusual in that it brings the Rice family right into your home to sing for you and bless your heart. Many have heard the girls and Dr. Rice sing at the summer conferences and will be thrilled at this opportunity to get this recording free.

To all those who will give \$5 or more to the Building Fund, we are offering free an unusual new record. This 10-inch, unbreakable, vinyl, 78 r.p.m. record is a special souvenir of our Letter Month Campaign. On one side the six Rice sisters sing "Jesus, Oh What a Name." On the reverse side Dr. Rice and Jessie sing "The Windows of Heaven," Elizabeth and Mary Lloyds (Mrs. Walter Handford and Mrs. Charles Himes) sing Dr. Rice's chorus, "Souls Are Dying," and Dr. Rice and Joanna sing "The Price of Revival."

Remember, this record will be sent to you absolutely free for all gifts of \$5 or more to the Building Fund.

I think of three reasons why you should help in this project at this time. In the first place it will help you to invest some of your money in the Lord's work to win souls and lay up treasure in Heaven. In the second place, it will encourage our hearts to know that you are praying with us and wanting to have some part with us in the important work of spreading revival and the fires of evangelism. In the third place, it will help at this time to pay off the \$19,000 still owing on building No. 2. This in the long run will save much of the Lord's money and will put us in a good position to put up our new office building in the near future.

Will you pray and see what God would have you do. Remember, address all gifts to Sword of the Lord Foundation, 214 W. Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois, and mark them Building Fund. Be sure to ask for the pamphlet, *Amusements for Christians*, and for the Gospel recording free with all gifts of \$5 or more to the Building Fund during this Letter Month campaign.

7 Miracle Days With Billy Graham

(Continued from page 4)

time it was always the moving plea "Just as I Am" sung softly by the choir. The sermons by Billy Graham were very simple. He told me that because approximately 80% of the congregation was new each night he felt compelled to put in the simplest basic truths about salvation—sin, condemnation, the sacrifice of Calvary, and justification by faith. So night after night he used often the same simple illustrations though he used different texts and some different material. In Billy Graham's preaching there was not the progression which I noted in his printed sermons at Nashville where he spoke on the Ten Commandments and other themes that would bring conviction and then decision and conversion. Every night it was simple, very plain Gospel preaching.

But there were certain elements which put the services far out of the ordinary. In the first place, that tremendous choir of about 1,200 voices sang so beautifully under the strong direction of Cliff Barrows. For another, although Billy Graham's preaching was very simple, there was a directness, a pressing for a decision, a holy intensity that evidenced the Spirit's presence and power. And then, ah then! when the simple invitation was given, to see the throngs of people coming to Christ!

You would never expect them to come. Dr. Graham does not even have the people stand. Only the choir sings the plaintive, pleading penitents' cry, "Just as I Am." Dr. Graham simply says, "I want you to rise in your seats and walk down these aisles and gather in front of the platform if you will now renounce your sin and trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour." There is a quiet prayer and the choir begins to sing softly. There is a moment of hesitation. Will

anybody come? No pressure. They will have to rise and stumble over people's feet. Some of those aisles seem so long! The white glare of the big lights shine down on the area in front of the pulpit; but here they come. First on one side, then another, then in every aisle there are people hurrying down to the front to take Christ as Saviour.

Dr. Graham has leaned over backwards to keep from offending the reserved Scots and to be beyond criticism. There was little or no personal work among the congregation that I could see, and to avoid criticism Billy Graham says nothing about that. He does say, "You may come, you may bring your family or loved ones with you if they, too, will renounce their sins and trust Christ as Saviour tonight." The Scottish newspapers speak with amazement that there is none of the expected hysteria, none of the crowd psychology which they expected. But they come.

On the Saturday afternoon I attended the Kelvin Hall meeting first there were 413 who came forward to claim Christ. All these then went to the counselling room for detailed instructions, prayer, and more definite committal and records. In the evening service the same Saturday, there were some 439 professions of faith.

I sat on the platform and night after night I was moved to tears as the group of penitents assembled before the platform and

(Continued on page 7)

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7 Miracle Days With Billy Graham

(Continued from page 6)

around it. There was an undercurrent of the power of God. One could sense that eternal destinies were being settled. The struggle was not often apparent. The Scots are very reserved, quiet people. I found them most friendly, most kind and helpful, but often very shy.

Some indication of the struggle that went on in the hearts of the people was evidenced, I believe, from the fact that again and again people fainted in the audience. Nurses and ushers were ready and quiet rooms with cots nearby were provided.

In the giant rally at Edinburgh this strong moving of the Spirit upon the hearts of men was particularly evident. When Billy Graham made his statement, "I am asking you to step out of those stands and step down on the cinder path if you will here and now accept Jesus Christ as your own Saviour and Lord, if you will renounce your sins and give Christ your heart. Not on the turf, but on the cinder track, please, while the choir sings." Then there was a quiet moment. A news photographer sitting on the grass to one side of the stand said aloud, "So he thinks they will step out on the cinder track, eh?" Dr. Graham later confessed that he had a moment of doubt, of burdensome concern, and then glad assurance.

Soon we saw them begin to make their way down from the stands on every side. Several people fainted during the services. I saw only six or seven cases from my vantage point on the speakers' platform, but the newspapers said there were 70 people who fainted during the services! That may have been an exaggeration. The news writer, rather puzzled, attributed it to "the heat wave." The thermometer had risen to sixty! I sat on the platform by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and his Lady, and was comfortable when the sun was shining, but when it went behind a cloud I put on my topcoat for comfort. No, it was not the heat that caused the fainting. Some way there was a supernatural struggle between God and Satan going on in the hearts of people as they heard the Gospel so plain, so simple as a child might understand it.

As the people crowded out in line on the cinder track, there was a holy hush on the people. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh turned to me and said, "Why, there must be 3,000 in that line!" There were, of course, 600 counsellors and over 900 people making a public profession of faith in Christ, and I suppose some of their loved ones and friends who came with them.

It was hastily announced that a fifth church building had been secured for the dealing with the converts. Ministers who had not already volunteered as counsellors were urged to come quickly and help deal with the hundreds of converts being taken to five separate large churches for careful prayer and instructions.

How many people were saved? I do not know. The publicly recorded decisions in Kelvin Hall had passed 12,000 before I left Scotland with eight days of the campaign yet to go. Many, many thousands of others had been saved in auxiliary meetings here and there. I was told that 40% of those coming forward were, on the average, men. That seems to me to be a very large and striking proportion of men. I was told that more than 80% of those coming forward were making their first public profession of faith in Christ.

A number of ministers came forward to claim Christ as Saviour. The invitation was so simple and so persistently plain that the newspapers began to speak of "receiving Christ" and put the term in quotation marks again and again in discussing the campaign.

The Relay Services Over England, Wales, North Ireland, and Scotland

I have before me the official program and announcement about the Billy Graham relay services

for 1955. By telephone wire the Kelvin Hall services were transmitted to halls and churches all over the British Isles and delivered to the people by loudspeakers. Here are lists of 550 churches and halls in England and Wales. A different list gives the many auditoriums in Scotland and North Ireland. In every case the theater, Baptist Church, Congregational Church, Anglican Church, Presbyterian Church, or mission, or auditorium, or legion hall is named where the services were to be held. In some cases it was "city football ground." In other cases it was a large theater, a town hall, a city or school auditorium. These relays were sponsored by the Evangelical Alliance. The announcement said:

"Billy Graham Relays 1955 are planned to cover the whole country. These relays are a direct outcome of the Harringay Arena services last year, when, as a result of the enormous crowds, they were envisaged as a scheme to enable greater numbers to hear Dr. Graham's message. In 1954 some 400 relays were planned to some 70 centres over a period of nearly two months. In 1955, 2,010 relays will go to 500 centres in two weeks. By this means nearly a million-and-a-quarter people will be able to hear Dr. Graham's Glasgow Meetings at the same time as they are held in Kelvin Hall, Glasgow. The relays will start on the 18th April, 1955, and conclude on the 30th April, 1955. During the 12 days in question, various centers have picked the days most suitable to them. The list below will give some guidance as to where these centers are and the nights on which their relays will be held. We would point

out that, at the time of going to press this list was as accurate as it could possibly be; there may have been a few minor alterations subsequently. This leaflet deals chiefly with those in England and Wales (which are administered by the London Office under the guidance of Maurice L. Rowlandson); relays in Scotland and Ireland (not shown on this leaflet) are in the hands of Rev. W. G. Shannon, M.A., in Glasgow."

On Wednesday night of the week I was in Scotland telegrams came telling of 1,682 people coming forward to accept Christ in these relay services. The following night telegrams told of 1,870 who came forward to claim Christ in these relay services, far removed from Kelvin Hall. And so it went night after night.

In every relay service a minister was appointed to preside, and to give the invitation. Trained counsellors or soul winners were at hand to deal with the converts.

The Campaign to Close With Tremendous Stadium Meetings

I wish I might have stayed for the closing week of the campaign but it was impossible. Already it was assured that the great stadium, the largest in Scotland would be filled for the two meetings Friday night and Saturday night which would close the campaign. The final results will show tens of thousands of people who came to Christ in the All-Scottish Crusade. And I thank God that I saw it and had some little part in it.

Next week, God willing, we will tell detailed stories of the lives transformed, of modernists who learned to believe the Bible, of pastors who had given their first invitation in fifteen years of ministry, and sidelights on the campaign which, I think, will be of surpassing public interest.

The Final Choice

(Continued from page 1)

Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ."

And it needs courage to preach to one man, or to two people. There are those who can preach to the crowd. It takes a man with the vision of the cross to preach to two people; to see that a little child may be a nation; and when we have the right spirit we shall see in one person something worth preaching to. If you are sent to preach the truth, you must be unsparing and faithful, you must declare the whole counsel of God. It takes courage to preach to the man who sits in a high position, when he is close to you, when he is in his own house and you are sitting at his table, or in his own room face to face.

That was the picture. There sat Drusilla, there sat Felix, and here stood Paul, and he may have had the chains on him, the chains that told of suffering for Christ's sake. Paul never had a better chance than then of making a friend of one who could help him when the trial came on. His enemies were outside, his accusers were away. Those who were thirsting for his blood were not in this little, quiet meeting amongst the three. If he will only flatter, if he will only congratulate instead of exhortation, if he will fawn upon Felix and toady to him, if he will compromise he may capture this man at any rate, and he will have a friend at court when the day of trial comes.

Paul Preached Plainly Against Sin

But, listen, Paul was not made of that material. He could suffer, he could die, but he could not sin, he could not trim. His message was burning in his very soul, his message had come down to him as "Thus saith the Lord." And he seemed to take in the whole situation, and to realize that this was his only chance of dealing personally, pointedly, piercingly with this sinner in front of him and the other sinner beside him. And so he reasoned—of the cross? Not to begin with. Of the shed blood? Not to begin with. Did he preach from this text: "God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son"? Not to begin with. Did he

say, "He that believeth on the Son shall be saved"?

No. He reasoned of righteousness, he talked about God's holiness. He talked about God's love for righteousness and holiness, and how it was His purpose to lift men into that atmosphere. And he would talk about God's hatred for sin, and he made sin appear sin. He did not excuse sin; he meant Felix to see and feel the awfulness of his own sin. He reasoned of rightness, wholeness, Godlikeness, purity. He brought him up to face the blazing light and the scorching presence of God's purity. He talked of righteousness.

I do not think that that side of the truth in these days is enforced as it ought to be. We have preached the love of God till some are lovesick. You know God's love; what you need to be told, and what I mean to tell you before I get through, is that God hates sin as much today as when Christ hung on the nails, to put it away, and that He does not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance.

He reasoned of righteousness to a man who was unrighteous. He talked about self-control—temperance—to the man who was intemperate, and whose passion was running wild. The man within was riot. His whole being was in a state of anarchy, a rebel.

He talked of righteousness, judgment; and as I have tried to enforce before, religion that honors God is right-doing, walking straight, holding a constant witness to the cleansing power of the precious blood. It is not hunting up meetings and preachers and going to conventions, taking your pencils and writing down in little note books pretty little sayings, beautiful little extracts, pretty thoughts. It is letting them blaze in your life when the convention is over, when the meeting is past, when the Sunday is gone, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, three hundred and sixty-five days in the year all aglow, warm with holiness unto the Lord.

Righteousness—"The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but rightness—rightness." It is turning from darkness to light, from the

power of Satan to God. It is the wicked man forsaking his wickedness in conformity to the will of God. Righteousness—not going to church, nor being christened, or confirmed, or baptized, or taking communion. All that will fall into the proper place, but first of all righteousness, rightness, right relationship with Heaven, readjustment with God, putting me in my right place with God, and God in His right place in me and in all my concerns. What we want is sin dethroned, self dethroned, Christ honored and Christ glorified not only among the angels, not only among the saints who march around the steps of the throne, not only among those who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, and are singing the song of Moses and the Lamb, but down here in the city, in your home, in your workshop, in your business—rightness, righteousness in your yard measure, righteousness in your ledger; to handle your ledger with as much religious feeling and fervor as you take your seat in the pew on Sundays and handle the communion cup—this is what the Gospel means.

I tell you this is a mighty, sweeping Gospel. It is an unsparing Gospel where sin is concerned. "He reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment"—judgment, don't forget it, judgment here and judgment yonder. Do not forget that "God hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world." Do not forget that there is a great white throne, and that we will have to stand before it. Do not forget that we shall stand as we are and not as we seem to be, and that we will have to give an account of the deeds done in the body. And do not forget that it will not be a mock judgment, it will be a righteous judgment, that God will be the judge, and that He will render to every man according as his work shall be.

Oh, to have listened to this preacher, to have heard Paul as he waxed fiery, flaming as he talked of righteousness and of judgment! Oh, to have seen the flash in his eye, and the pointed finger and the erect figure as he shook and the chains rattled, while he lifted as high as he could that hand, pointing to the great white throne! Oh, to have seen him as he pealed out the truth upon that man like a mighty thunder-clap into his conscience and into his brain until he shook, until the seat shook on which he sat, until he clutched it and said, "Hold! that will do, Paul. I know it is true, I have heard as much as I can carry, I have got as much as I can bear; that will do. Go

back to the dungeon. It is not convenient. I know it all, I feel it all; I know what I ought to do. My soul, my conscience, my better self, my illuminated judgment, everything—God the Spirit, your word and your presence, and these clanking chains—tells me what I ought to be and what I ought to do, but it is not convenient. When it is convenient I will send for thee."

Cannot you hear him marching down that corridor? Cannot you hear the rattle of those chains, and don't you hear the slamming of the door that shuts the old saint up—glorious old Paul—in that dungeon for Christ's sake? Listen. The slamming of that door is but the echo of another door which closed itself forever against these two when Paul was ordered off. When he went their chance went with him. Oh, how different the story might have read! How blessedly it might have ended! How triumphantly it ought to have ended! But the man hugged his sin and would not yield.

Felix Missed His Opportunity: Why?

Now why did not Felix become a Christian? He might have been an apostle, he might have been an evangelist, he might have written an epistle. It takes a saint to do that. He might have left a message which would have blessed the world; he might have left a decision that would have been an inspiration for all time. But he went the other way. He decided against Paul and Paul's Christ. And surely if any man in the world ever had a fair chance of salvation Felix had. With the world shut out and with that great soul winner in front of him, with nobody to interrupt, nobody

(Continued on page 8)

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WARNER PRESS — Anderson 24, Ind.

"The Blight of Booze"

(Continued from page 2)

start the morning without a drink.

"Then the two-ounce bottles in your bag grew to six ounces and finally fifths. . . Odd, no one ever commented that you were rarely seen without those big handbags.

"Soon you were on a fifth (of a gallon) a day, taking the stuff slowly, a drink or two every four or five hours. Then every three hours. Then two hours. Finally every hour. Then a quart through the day and a quart through the night.

"As the years went on something terrifying happened. You couldn't hold as much. You began to throw it up. One part of you cried:

"I want it!"

"The other part cried:

"I can't take it!"

"Your body reached a point of revolt; you were sick all the time. Sometimes you vomited all morning before your stomach retained an ounce of it—the drink your body needed so desperately.

"The next stage was worse. You lay in bed and drank around the clock; drank, passed out, waked, drank, vomited, drank, vomited, drank, passed out . . .

"Then, still worse, the shakes. Only liquor could relieve it, but your body rejected liquor.

"And after the shakes, the horrors, the delirium tremens, when you heard sounds that

(Continued on page 9)

The Final Choice

(Continued from page 7)

to come between, nobody but Paul and His Master facing him and the plan of salvation in front of him, and the heavens opening above him, and the light streaming down upon him and God speaking through His saint, surely no man ever had a better chance of life eternal than this man. Surely, my brother, my sister, you cannot look in the face of God one day and say, "I should have been a Christian if I had an opportunity." You cannot say that because you have this blessed hour in which to yield to God. If you never had a chance before you have one now, and if you never had anybody to talk to you about these things you have some one now. You cannot plead at the great white throne that you never had a chance.

Felix cannot. Surely no man ever had a better preacher than Paul, the prince of preachers. There was no trimming about Paul. There was no stooping to suit his people. He was not afraid of the man in the chariot and he did not despise the man in the gutter. Why, Paul, glorious old Paul, he said himself, "I determined to know nothing among you save Christ and Him crucified." There was no mongrel gospel with Paul. There was no water and milk gospel with Paul. It was the pure, unadulterated, unchanging, living message.

Surely you cannot say when you get to the white throne, if you have not a wedding garment on; you cannot say, "Well, if I had only heard the pure Gospel I should have been saved." You cannot say that; you have had it from the pulpit, you have had it from the lips of your own ministers, you have heard it till you can go to sleep under it. You are hardened by the process of listening to it. For this mighty Gospel, what it does not soften and weld it hardens. It is the savor of life or of death. You know it, and you are familiar with it. You have the Gospel as faithfully as ever Paul preached it.

Surely this man might have been saved, for he was convicted. He felt more than he wanted to feel. He trembled, but, mark this—He trembled, but the woman did not. That is striking. I have often seen two people sit together under the same sermon, and I have seen one shake and tremble and weep beneath the power of God, and I have seen the other rebellious and hard and hindering; I have seen one want to come, and I have seen the other pull him back. When a woman does set herself against Christ, she does. I have not been an evangelist for a quarter of a century, without finding out that when a woman does come to Christ, she comes all the way. I believe this man would have been saved, yea, I know he would, but for that woman. Felix trembled; she did not. He felt, he was convicted, he was awake, he knew, he was concerned, he was wrought upon.

Holding on to Sin Damned Felix

Haven't you been there? Is not your conscience, my sister, my brother, with me at this moment? Don't you feel your sin; don't you see something of its wickedness; don't you realize something

of its damning power; don't you see how it is spoiling you, how it is robbing you of your manhood; don't you see how your life is embittered; don't you see how it is leading you away from God and rightness? Don't you see it? I know you do. That is the Spirit at work within you. Your conscience and your judgment are bearing me witness. Don't you see that you can get as far as trembling conviction, and yet stop and refuse to take the decisive step? Why do you not yield?

I want to push the question till I get an answer. Why didn't Felix surrender? If he heard the Gospel from the lips of that faithful man and felt its awful import, if that stupendous opportunity was his in which he might have built a throne, why did he take the dungeon? If the hour was his in which he might have set an anthem ringing around the throne, why did he forge the chain? If the hour was his in which he might have decked the brow of Emmanuel, why, in the name of everything that is good, did he grovel in the dust and allow Hell to drive over him its chariots and grind him to powder? Why? Don't you see the damning effects, the destroying effects of sin? The reason is given in one word—sin, his own sin. Beside him sat another man's wife with whom he was living.

Are you surprised that Paul talked of righteousness? How could he talk of anything else? Could God smile on that? He talked of righteousness. I should think so. And Felix knew if he became a Christian that woman must go home to her husband; at any rate, she must go from him. He knew that, and he looked at her, and in that look he lost his soul. He said, "No, it is not convenient. When it is I will call for thee." But he never did, he never had another chance. Samson lost his strength through a woman. The daughter of Herodias danced Herod into the pit. Drusilla was the chain that bound this man for time and for eternity. What is binding you? What is fettering you? What is getting you by the heart and life? What has gripped you in its clutch? What is it? You know. You know. Who is it? You know, and God knows. The truth will out some day.

The truth will out, for every man has some special sin. It may not be lust for a woman, but it may be lust for gold, it may be lust for drink, it may be in another appetite form, it may be ambition, which is just as damning. What is it. Every woman has her own sin. It may not be lust for a man, but it is lust of some sort, and there are some women who will sell their souls and the souls of their children for dress and trinkets. May God save you. Listen—it is a choice between sin and holiness. It is a tremendous choice, but there can be no two opinions about it, if you look at it wisely and well. It is a choice between the low and the high, the earthly and the heavenly, time and eternity, the perishable and the imperishable, the tinsel and the real gold, the passing moment and the Heaven that awaits those who will only obey.

Men and women, invited to be sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty, rise to the occasion.

Don't mingle for yourselves the bitter drink, don't fly in the face of your eternal interests. Don't fight against God. Don't hug your sin. Don't play the fool—don't. God wants to save you, and He will save you. He would have saved that man if he had come, but he did not, and because he did not God could not. "Ye will not come to me that ye might have life." How often would I have gathered thee under my wing . . . and ye would not.

It is not God's fault. If a man goes to Hell—it is because he will not accept God's remedy. You cannot charge God with your destruction; you must charge it home to your own will in the choice of evil, in your own wicked, rebellious, God-dishonoring, God-hating, Christ-rejecting life; you must charge yourself. I cannot hear my Lord libelled without protest. Some of you say, "Do you think God is a God of love, to send a man to Hell?" God does not willingly send him there; he sends himself. You don't go to Hell only because you are a sinner, but because you refuse to walk over the bridge that God has built and made it possible for you to go the other way. You refuse God's grace; you refuse the way of salvation. God wants to save you from your sin, and He will save you if you will submit. Will you give up your sin? You don't want me to name your sin. If I did know it I would hold it before you till you loathed it; I would make you face it; I would hold it in front of you till you ran away from it; I would make you see your own sin, in spite of yourself, were it in my power, till you yielded and gave yourself wholly to Jesus Christ.

My brother, my sister, let this be a time of real surrender, when you turn from the wicked thing, that God hates in your life, the thing that has made you all you are, the thing that is destroying you day by day. Turn from that, and turn from it now and you will hear Him say to you as you come though your coming is faltering, though it is weak, if it is coming, if it is turning from sin, if it is yielding to God your heart, your life, all there is, with no reservation, the whole being, absolute, entire, if it is a real surrender, you will hear Him say, "Thy sins are forgiven thee"; and if your ears were a little keener, then you would hear the angels singing, "The dead is alive, and the lost is found."

(From the book, AS JESUS PASSED BY, by Gipsy Smith. Published by Fleming H. Revell Co., and used by their kind permission.)

My Decision for Christ

Dear Gipsy Smith has gone to Heaven after preaching around the world and winning hundreds of thousands of souls. But you, who have read his sermon, may still be saved by the blessed Gospel he preached. If you will, this moment, admit to God that you are a wicked sinner who needs saving, and turn your heart to Him in honest repentance and trust Jesus Christ to forgive your sins and save your soul. He will save you. Will you turn to Him today and take Him as your own Saviour? If you will make that great choice, please sign the following decision, copy it in a letter to the editor, and mail it at once. I will be glad to answer any questions and will send you a letter of encouragement and help in the Christian life. Do it now!

Evangelist John R. Rice
Editor, THE SWORD OF THE LORD
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read Gipsy Smith's sermon, "The Final Choice." I realize that only sin keeps sinners from turning to Christ and trusting Him for salvation. In my heart I confess my sin to God. I ask Him to forgive me and save me. This moment I turn to Jesus Christ and give Him my heart and trust Him to be my Saviour. I will depend upon Him to change my heart and give me everlasting life. By His grace I will claim Him openly as my Saviour and set out to live for Him day by day. Please pray for me and send me encouragement and instructions.

Signed _____

Address _____

PRICE SLASHED

DURING LETTER MONTH ONLY

By Viola Walden

April 29 was the official opening day for Letter Month, 1955. It's been real fun this year deciding, eliminating, slashing prices—all for YOUR benefit.

I do not recall now just how many times Dr. Rice called several of us in for a conference regarding Letter Month. He always wants to give away more than the rest of us wish him to do, and of course, being boss, he usually succeeds in making us lean his way! So it is this year. When he handed me a list of twelve books and said, "Advertise them during Letter Month at this price"—being a woman I couldn't help but argue! "Why, Brother Rice, during our annual August Sale, we give only 20% off. And now, people can save as much as 50% on these books. We can't afford to cut them this much." Seeing I was getting no where near changing his mind about the prices he had set, I finally declared, "Pretty soon, you'll be paying people to read these books!" (And it's a good thing you have him on your side, Reader, because the rest of us here wouldn't be so lenient!)

Well, after he twisted our arms, we "consented" to this great reduction, and you will find listed below some of the greatest bargains we will ever make here at Sword of the Lord Publishers. You may have any 4 of the books listed below for \$5. (plus 25c postage) any 9 for \$10 (plus 50c postage). Remember special occasions that will be coming up this year—birthdays, graduations, Christmas, a gift for the hostess—any number of ways you could make somebody happy at such a little cost. Look over the books, decide on your order, and mail today. (Use coupon in last week's SWORD if you wish.)



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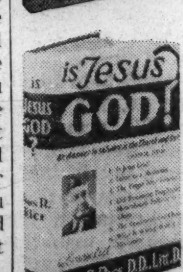
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Rush your order now so it will receive prompt attention. Address your letters to Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois.

"The Blight of Booze"

(Continued from page 8)

were not there and saw things that did not exist. . . Then the hours of pacing your room, and tearing your hair, and you have reached the worst stage of all; your medicine is your poison and there is no end but madness. . .

Such is the slavery of booze! If you tamper with the sin of liquor, you will become the slave of liquor! No mortal ever lived or ever will live, you included, who could take it for long and remain able to "take it or leave it alone." It is a sin that becomes a slavery.

Perhaps I should emphasize here that it is a sin! The liquor crowd came out with a new-fangled theory a few years ago and shallow-thinking citizens swallowed it hook, line and sinker. The advocates of this delusion insists that alcohol is a disease, that the drinker is a sick man comparable to a man sick with any disease such as polio, malaria, or something else. They tell us not to blame him, not criticize him, not condemn him. But the Word of our Living Lord teaches the exact opposite! The Bible declares that drunkenness is a sin! The Bible teaches that the drunkard is just as much to blame for his drinking as the murderer for his murder, or the rapist for his rape. In words plain and powerful the Scriptures classify drunkenness with stealing, murder, idolatry, adultery and other such transgressions. If you are a slave to drink, you have no one to blame but yourself; it is a part of the blight of booze.

Sorrow

Another phase of this woe is sorrow. Proverbs 23:29,30, says, "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine: they that go to seek mixed wine." The path of the intemperate man is a trail of tears and sorrow. Well did Gladstone say, "The ravages of drink are greater than those of war, pestilence and famine combined." Those who dance to the Devil's tune in the matter of booze must pay the fiddler. And the price to pay comes high!

One sorrow which comes to mind at once is that of broken homes and broken hearts. Every reader can think of any number of homes in his community which were broken through drink. Our daily papers are filled with heart-breaking stories of divorce resulting from homes made one by Heaven becoming Hell through drink. A judge in one of America's largest divorce courts, when asked the major cause of broken homes, replied, "In one word, 'Drink.'" Drink will turn what ought to be a haven of rest into a battleground between husband and wife. Drink will steal the flame of love from the heart of the most devoted wife. Drink will turn happiness into horror, dreams into nightmares, love into hatred.

Drink has broken untold numbers of marriages. Legion are the homes which have been sacrificed upon the altar of booze. King Alcohol has the skulls of myriads of homes resting row upon row in his trophy room. Sorrow! Woe! Broken homes and broken hearts! Such are the wages garnered with the pay check of sin!

Divorce is not the only way sorrow sweeps into the homes of men on the wake of drink. Recently in Sevierville, Tennessee, Thomas Ball, a 38-year-old father of two children, had been on a drunken spree. The afternoon following the start of the orgy he was awakened from his drunken sleep by the happy laughter of his children, a boy 6 and a girl 4. In whisky-mad frenzy, he beat the boy with a broom until it broke and then took the arm of a rocking chair and continued until his passion was appeased. At 8 that night he sobered enough to realize the boy was hurt and he managed to call a sister living next door. The sister called an ambulance and the undertaker called the sheriff—the boy was dead! Faced with a murder charge, all he could say to the arresting officer was, "Honest to God, Sheriff, I loved my children: I never whipped them." But booze made a demon out of that father and sor-

row swept into the home like a flood.

Out in Los Angeles a 44-year-old soap factory worker, John Miller Kelly, murdered his wife because, as he put it, her "sweet tongue was stolen by the cup of wine." In his plea, Kelly stated that his wife, only three years his junior, had begun to drink in Boston about four years previously. Said he, "In less than a year my home was a bar." He had been forced to sell his piano, his organ and other musical instruments to raise money for her drinking. Finally they moved to Los Angeles, but instead of the change helping her, she became worse. On the night of the fatal fight, Kelly admitted to police that both he and his wife were drinking. She wanted more beer and more port wine, he became infuriated, killed her in drunken frenzy, stuffed her body in a trunk, and told his newly made motherless sons, age 7 and 12, she had returned to Boston. Chalk up another tragic victory for booze!

Oh, the sorrow, the tragedy in the wine cup! Its path is a horror trail of broken hearts, broken homes, divorce, murder, rape and other sins. And broken bodies is another prominent fruit of the bottle. One of the things included in God's warning of Numbers 23:32, "Be sure your sin will find you out," is right here. Sin will find you out in your body! The man who drinks will pay and pay and pay in a physical way. Man's body is not capable of standing up under a constant flow of beverage alcohol into the system. That is why the health of the man or woman who drinks is soon broken.

Pitiful poverty is another sorrow of drunkenness. In Proverbs 23:21 we read, "For the drunkard . . . shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags." And in Proverbs 21:17, "He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine . . . shall not be rich." There is something about booze that steals milk from babies, bread from hungry bodies, shoes from little feet, clothes from needy backs, and produces poverty in more than a hundred ways. God says, "The drunkard shall come to poverty!" Someone has written, "If you want plenty of poverty, plenty of pain, plenty of sorrow, plenty of shame, plenty of broken heads and hearts, hopes doomed and sealed—be a drunkard!"

Stupidity

The next blight upon the drinker which we will mention is the curse of stupidity. By that I mean what the Bible says in Isaiah 28:7, when talking about the folks who drink. It declares, "They err in vision, they stumble in judgment." I mean what the Bible says in Proverbs 23:34 when it illustrates the foolishness to which liquor leads men with the words, "Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast." Booze will dull the senses of a man and cause him to lose all sense of danger. That is why the man with a drink under his belt will drive down the highway 100 miles an hour. That is why the man with a drink or two is willing to fight any other man in the house, no holds barred.

Alcohol is a dangerous, poisonous, habit-forming, narcotic drug. It affects the brain; it affects the nerves. Different types of alcohol have different effects upon the human body. For example, rubbing alcohol (wood alcohol), if it enters the human body, will go straight to the eyes. That is why you sometimes read of folks drinking rubbing alcohol, when beverage alcohol was not available, and going blind. Sometimes it kills them outright. But even as wood alcohol goes directly to the optic nerves when drunk, beverage alcohol goes directly to the brain, via the blood stream. Therefore, a man is drunk in his head when he is still sober in his feet. When he can still walk a straight line, when he has not begun to weave and wobble, he is drunk upstairs; his mind is drunk. That is why I say the curse of God upon the man who drinks takes the form of stupidity. He will say silly things; he will do foolish things! Reason flies out the win-

Big Prayers to an Almighty God

(Continued from page 3)

said, "If thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us." But Jesus answered him in effect, "You have the if in the wrong place. There is no if about My power or about My compassion. The only if is whether you will believe. All things are possible to him that believeth"—to anybody that believeth!

5. "Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matt. 21:21, 22).

This is an entirely different occasion from that mentioned in Matthew 17:20, 21, yet here the Saviour uses the same illustration and says again that not only can a fig tree be blighted but a mountain can be cast into the sea in answer to prayer. And then He adds the mighty promise, "And ALL THINGS, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Plainly, this is an invitation to prayer for anything, no matter how mighty, just so you

believe in your heart that God will give it. The Lord Jesus pleads with us to ask for big things!

6. "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God, for verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore, I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:22-24).

This is Mark's account of the incident of the withered fig tree and the Saviour's wonderful promise that mountains could be removed by faith. And here He adds this wonderful statement that "what things soever ye desire, when ye pray" we can have if we believe that we receive them!

7. "And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you" (Luke 17:5, 6). Here again the Saviour means

dow with the first glass of beer, wine, whisky, or gin.

This is why a woman who has been drinking will not watch her skirt when she sits down, she will be unconcerned if her blouse or dress is unbuttoned or open down the front; she will permit familiarity from men which she would never think of permitting if her brain were not stupified by booze. This is why a man who has had one or two drinks will put his foot to the floorboard, weave in and out of traffic on slippery roads, pass on hills and curves, etc., even though he may be the most careful driver when his brain is working properly. Drinking results in stupidity!

Sex-Looseness

The next blight which haunts and hounds the man or woman who boozes is the curse of sex-looseness. Speaking of the drinker, Proverbs 23:33 says, "Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things." There is something about liquor that makes a man want, not his own wife, but a strange woman! There is something about booze which makes a woman want, not her husband, but a strange man.

To my mind now comes a family I met in a mid-western state. Several of the children were earnest Christians. Some were married and some were in their late teens and early twenties. The one older brother, married and the father of three fine young children, was not a Christian. Early one morning I received an urgent telephone call to go and visit this brother at the county jail. When I finally arrived I talked to a shameful, embarrassed, humiliated, brokenhearted husband and father. From the county jail he went to the state penitentiary to serve a long term at hard labor although it was his first offense of any kind.

What was wrong? The night before he had taken a beautiful sixteen-year-old girl into a nearby cornfield and committed terrible crime against God, the girl and himself. She went willingly, but, because she was a minor, he was charged with a statutory offense. As I talked to him, a pitiful picture of grieving manhood, he said, "I would never have done it, but I was drunk."

In St. Louis, Missouri, a doctor's wife went on a boat ride and became involved with another man. After the boat ride, he kept coming to her apartment. The doctor discovered it and followed the other man to a Cedar Rapids, Iowa, hotel room and stabbed him to death. The jury found him guilty and the judge sentenced him to 70 years in prison. He appealed his case and was released on bond. The doctor went to where he grew up as a boy, Houston, Texas, and awaited his appeal. The lower court's decision was upheld and the doctor in Houston jumped into his car, drove down the highway,

to tell us that startling and wonderful miracles can be done in answer to the prayer of faith. We should ask for mighty things, and believe God!

8. "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20, 21).

God is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." Able to do above all that we ask, able to do above all that we can even think! Not only able, but abundantly able, but exceeding abundantly able to do above all that we ask or think! And then the Scripture tells us that that is according to the power that worked in Paul, and Paul prays that this same exceeding abundantly able God may be glorified in the church by Christ. That is, he prays that God's mighty power will be manifested.

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"The Blight of Booze"

(Continued from page 9)

drunk's alibi, "I was drunk!" Friends, that is no alibi! If the courts of our country would refuse to recognize drunkenness as a defense for crimes committed we would soon lose a large percentage of the amount of crimes appearing on the books of the courts. The fact that I lose my temper because when I rob your home I am not able to find any large amounts of money would not justify thrusting a butcher knife into your throat. In exactly the same manner, the fact that a man loses his temper because he has drunk intoxicating beverages does not justify any other crime he may commit while drunk. One sin cannot justify another!

Separation From God in Hell

Yes, there is a curse upon the man who drinks! We have discussed the blight of slavery, the blight of sorrow, the blight of stupidity and the blight of sex-looseness. As terrible

as these things are, the last blight which we will mention is much worse than all the others combined. This curse is the curse of separation from Almighty God forever and ever in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone continually. The greatest curse on the man or woman who drinks is the eternal Hell which awaits him or her at the end of a Christless life!

Listen to what God says in I Corinthians 6:9, 10: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." Make no mistake, God says! Be not deceived! No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God and of Christ.

In Galatians 5:21 we read

again, "Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Friends, this is serious business! The Word of God declares that you cannot have your booze and have Heaven when you die. No drunkard will inherit the kingdom of God. The terrible curse upon the man who drinks deprives him of eternal life with a loving God and, instead, consigns his soul to the torments of unquenchable fire. It costs too much to drink! It's not worth the price!

But this curse upon the man who drinks is only half the picture. God has pronounced just as surely, just as certainly, just as woefully,

II. A BLIGHT UPON THE MAN WHO CAUSES OTHERS TO DRINK!

God's solemn decree in Habakkuk 2:15, 16 is: "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their naked-

ness! Thou art filled with shame for glory: drink thou also, and let thy foreskin be uncovered: the cup of the Lord's right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing shall be on thy glory." God says, "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink!" God says, "Woe unto him that puts his bottle to another's lips!" This is serious business resulting in a terrible curse—causing others to drink!

Booze Blights the Maker

Included in this curse would, of course, be all those in that crowd who make, who distill, who manufacture strong drink. Seagrams, Schenleys, Walkers and other distillers are under the curse of God. The makers of Budweiser, Falstaff, Schlitz, Red Top Ale, Pabst Blue Ribbon, Acme, Jax, and other brewers are under the curse of God, so the Bible declares! They are just as guilty of crime in the eyes of Almighty God as the bootlegger is guilty of crime in the eyes of man. And, actually, there is little difference. Legal booze will make a fool out of a man just as quickly as illegal booze. Legal beer will make a man wreck his car just as if he had drunk bootleg beer. Legal wine and whisky will make a man commit murder, steal, rape, lie, fight, and everything else that bootleg wine and whisky will make a man do. The alcohol in both bottles is the same! The curse of God is upon the man who makes it, whether he puts a government stamp on his bottle or not; whether it is legal or bootleg!

Booze Blights the Seller

But that is not all! The curse of God is on the man or woman who sells strong drink! God's curse is upon the owners and operators of these havens of Hell which line the streets of our cities, offering their bottled poison to the multitudes. These demon sellers who, for the sake of personal profit, sell merchandise that makes drunkards, paupers, harlots and criminals are doomed! God's woe is upon them!

There are no good people in the booze business; it would be impossible. The man might be a member of the Chamber of Commerce or a member of the local church, but if he is in the booze business, he is not a good man. Going to church, giving to charity, helping his neighbor, paying his debts, or anything of a kindred nature will not make a man good if he is in a bad business. The man selling legal booze is just as bad as the man selling bootleg booze, the deadly poison in the bottle is the same.

No, a man cannot be in the booze business, whether legal or illegal, and be a good man. Every time he passes a bottle of booze across the counter or the bar to a man, he knows that under its influence that man may commit murder, ruin some girl, or do something else just as horrible. Every time he passes a bottle or a glass to some girl, he knows that under its influence she may lose her purity, become an unmarried mother, or pass from disease to disgrace, to death, to Hell! No man can do that and be a good man!

Sam Morris says, "When somebody says to me, 'It is better to have legal dealers' than it is to have bootleggers,' I look at him and say, 'Mister, is it better to have polecats or skunks? They are both in the same stinking business.'" And so they are!

Just a short time ago I read of a liquor store dealer who staggered into the police station at Wichita Falls, Texas, and asked the officers to look after his wife; he was afraid something had happened. They locked him up for being drunk and went to the home and found the wife dead from acute alcoholism. They had both been drinking for several days and the curse of the stuff he sold had found him out.

Incidentally, why do people drink? Advertisements have been appearing lately in newspapers and magazines from coast to coast promoting *Relska*, "The World's Most Honored Vodka!" The amazing ad is headlined, "DOES THIS MEAN YOU? Of Those Who Drink Socially . . . 53.9% Don't Like the Taste of Liquor!" They claim to base their figures on "Certified, notarized findings of an im-

partial coast to coast survey conducted by one of the nation's most reputable independent research organizations." What fools these mortals must be who drink, but don't like it! *Relska* continues to advertise, "You can't taste it in a drink . . . but you know it's there!"

Booze Blights the Server

But God's curse is not just upon the makers and the sellers of booze, it is upon those who serve it in their homes. His curse is upon the host and hostess at a cocktail party. His blight is upon the home where wine is served with dinner. His woe is upon folks who serve eggnog at Christmas and like to give their friends an occasional smooth toddy. His curse is upon the men and women who go to the ice-box and get beer to give the friends who have dropped in for the evening. It may be the popular thing to do; it may be the fashionable, modern way of entertaining, I don't know. But I do know that the Holy Bible says, "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him."

God have pity upon parents who have booze in their refrigerators. You might better have hooded cobras or African lions for your children to become familiar with, than to have the fire-water of Hell before their eyes.

But I must close this message! What can you do about the blight of booze in your life? The only hope for the man under the curse of booze is Jesus Christ! Drink leads to woe, to sorrow, to death; to Hell. But, thank God, there is mercy, there is forgiveness, there is pardon, there is salvation and life in the Son of God.

Jesus Is God's Answer to the Drinker's Need


What the drunkard needs is Christ! It is not a Keely Cure; it is Christ. It is not Alcoholic Anonymous; it is Christ. It is not signing a pledge, not reforming, not turning over a new leaf—no, no, that will not be enough—it is Christ!

Do you remember that passage in I Corinthians 6 which said, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived . . . (No) drunkard . . . shall inherit the kingdom of God?" The very next verse, the 11th, says, "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." Oh, dear friend, your only hope is in the Name of Jesus! If you will turn to Him, drunkard, or bootlegger, or harlot, or whatever you are, He will save you! His promise is, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:13).

A middle-aged man came to hear me preach on the home in a tent revival one night in Tampa, Florida. God really spoke to his heart and he trembled with conviction, but he would not yield to Christ. He left the tent that night and drove his wife home, a member of the church, then started aimlessly driving and fighting the call of the Holy Spirit. All that night and all the next day he drove around. Finally, about 8 o'clock the next night he drove home, walked into the house, and informed his wife that he was ready to get right with God. Together they knelt in prayer while he made the great surrender and then a friend came to the tent to get me, the pastor, and the song leader.

I don't believe I will ever forget his happy testimony, his enthusiastic manner as he told us what had happened. Then he said, "Preacher, I have been spending over \$200 a month for liquor; now I want to do something for God!" With almost boyish eagerness he said, "I am going to be one of your crowd now. I am going to live for God." The next night he was too sick to attend the meeting—I suppose the reaction in his body from denying it liquor—but the next night he came to the tent and boldly took his stand publicly for Christ and for church. The Lord Jesus Christ saved him and set him free.

And the Lord is no respecter of persons; what He did for him He will do for anyone. John 8:36 guarantees, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Give God a chance in your life!



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Big Prayers to an Almighty God

(Continued from page 9)

fest in the church, that God will be able to answer prayer down through all ages, greater than anybody can ask or even think! This wonderful promise shows that God intended the marvelous answers to prayer to continue through all ages, having wonders done by the Holy Spirit Who worked in Paul, and that these wonders should be done in the name of Jesus Christ, glorifying God. The next time you pray, remember that you have an exceeding abundantly able God Who can give more than you can even ask or think. What a challenge to us to ask great things of God and glorify a great Saviour by letting Him manifest His power!

II. Bible Examples of Prayers Demanding Great Things From God

The Bible is a book of marvelous answers to prayer, of big faith, and of a bigger God! And never is there a hint throughout the Bible that any man ever expected too much from God or that God was ever displeased because one asked for mighty things!

I mention here only a few illustrations that thrill the souls of men and help us to believe God!

1. First I mention the case of Joshua, who commanded the sun to stand still. In Joshua 10:12-14 we are told:

"Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel."

Of course I believe this, and of course you do, too, if you are a child of God. If God made the sun and the earth, He was easily able to make the sun still in its relationship to the earth for "about a whole day." And this marvelous miracle was written of not only in the book of Joshua but written of by a contemporary writer in "the book of Jasher." That book has not been preserved for us and was not intended to be a part of the canon of Scripture, but was a trustworthy chronicle and added witness to this marvelous miracle. And every line of this divinely inspired account shows that God was pleased with Joshua's faith and answered him mightily!

2. But one of the most audacious prayers ever prayed was that of Elisha, the young prophet who had followed Elijah now for years acting as a servant for him. When his master Elijah was about to go to Heaven, Elisha, with a boldness that defied Elijah, abruptly dismissed every suggestion of unbelief and seemed almost to demand of God instead of pleading. May God bless our hearts as we read this sweet story again.

"And it came to pass, when the Lord would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elisha went with Elisha from Gilgal. And Elisha said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel. And the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head today? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace. And Elisha said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho. And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head today? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace. And Elisha said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the Lord hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on. And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan. And Elisha took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground. And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elisha said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing; nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elisha went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof! And he saw him no more; and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; and he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the Lord God of Elijah? And when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over" (II Kings 2:1-14).

The story tells itself, but two or three comments may be helpful. (a) Elisha would not be discouraged. He was accustomed to taking the words of Elijah as if they were direct from God, but here he point-blank refused to listen to Elijah's suggestion that he stay at Gilgal, or at Bethel, or at Jericho; no, "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee!" he said.

(b) We surely must be convinced here that God does not always mean, "No," when He seems to say, "No." These discouragements were manifestly meant to prove Elisha just as Jesus temporarily discouraged the Canaanitish woman but was secretly pleased when she insisted and would not take "No" for an answer about the healing of her poor, devil-possessed daughter (Matt. 15: 21-28). So if God does not at first answer your prayers, and if discouraging circumstances seem to indicate that He will not hear you, do not be discouraged. If you know that what you are asking will honor God then demand it and expect it.

(c) Note the astounding request, "And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me." Really, what he asked for was this: "Let me have twice as much of the power of the Holy Spirit as Elijah had!" Elijah had raised the dead, had prayed and God had given a drought for three and a half years, had prayed again, and God had given rain. Elijah had had the most marvelous miracles since the time of Moses. And yet this bold young prophet demands that he shall have twice the measure of the Holy Spirit and His power which Elijah had! What a prayer!

(d) And even more astounding than the prayer is the fact that God answered it! The mantle of Elijah fell on Elisha! And while by careful comparison we find eight great miracles done by Elijah, we find sixteen great miracles done by Elisha after a double portion of the Spirit of God was on him in answer to this prayer! We will not count Elijah's answered prayers for drought and then for rain because they might be said to have happened through natural causes, not by a miracle, though in answer to prayer. Likewise we will not count the miraculous revelation to Elisha of the plans of Ben-hadad, king of Syria, recorded in II Kings 6:8-12, since that, though a miracle and repeated several times, was not a physical miracle. Likewise prophecy of seven years of famine is not counted (II Kings 8:1). But compare these lists of miracles and see that Elisha really got what he prayed for, a double portion of the Holy Spirit that empowered Elijah!

Miracles of Elijah

1. Fed by ravens (I Kings 17: 1-6).
2. Widow's meal and oil replenished (I Kings 17:8-16).
3. Raises widow's son (I Kings 17:17-23).
4. Fire comes down from heaven and consumes his offering (I Kings 18:36-38).
5. Fed by angel (I Kings 19: 5-7).
6. Calls fire down from heaven to consume captain and fifty men (II Kings 1:9-12).
7. Divides waters of Jordan (II Kings 2:8).
8. Elijah went up by whirlwind with chariot of fire into Heaven. (II Kings 2:11).

Miracles of Elisha

1. Parts the water and goes over Jordan on dry land (II Kings 2: 14).

2. Heals water with salt (II Kings 2:21,22).
3. Bears tear forty-two children (II Kings 2:23-25).
4. Country is filled with water (II Kings 3:16-20).
5. Increase of widow's oil (II Kings 4:1-7).
6. Birth of son to barren Shunammite woman (II Kings 4:8-17).
7. Restores life to son of Shunammite (II Kings 4:18-37).
8. Heals noxious pottage (II Kings 4:38-41).
9. Feeds one hundred men with twenty loaves (II Kings 4:42-44).
10. Naaman's leprosy miraculously healed (II Kings 5:1-19).
11. Commands leprosy of Naaman to cleave to Gehazi (II Kings 5: 20-27).
12. Makes lost ax float (II Kings 6:5-7).
13. Eyes of his servant opened; sees mountain full of horses and chariots of fire around Elisha (II Kings 6:13-17).
14. Brings blindness on Syrians (II Kings 6:18-20).
15. God miraculously scatters Syrians and fulfills Elisha's promise of food (II Kings 7:1-16).
16. Man brought to life by touching Elisha's bones (II Kings 13: 20-21).

Back of the scene, in my mind, I can see God looking on with delight! God was not insulted; He was pleased by the audacious boldness of Elisha's prayer! I am sure He was grieved at the unbelief of the other sons of the prophets, but He was pleased with Elisha. Praise God, Israel would not be left now without a believing prophet of God to show forth His power!

(e) And last, note that this bold young prophet, Elisha, walked right back to the Jordan river and demanded at once that God show Himself, that the God of Elijah should prove Himself the God of Elisha as well! Wrapping the mantle of Elijah together he smote the waters of Jordan and cried out, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" and the waters stood back in a wall on either side and he walked over.

Surely in a world where God's great soul-winners have left the scene, God wants to raise up others with like power. The God of Spurgeon, of Wesley, of Charles G. Finney, of Dwight L. Moody; the God of R. A. Torrey and of Billy Sunday—where is He? Where is the Lord God of Moody? Evidently He only waits until some man shall boldly, with a holy abandon that will not be denied, demands and claims the mighty power of God! The Lord's work languishes because we do not pray such big prayers! And we do not have mighty things because we do not ask for them!

Another illustration of how eager God is to give more than we can ask, and how pleased He is with big prayers is given in II Kings 4:1-7. Here again Elisha, the man who demanded and received a double portion of the Spirit of God that rested on Elijah, is the hero of the story. As Elisha had called on Elijah, so this woman calls on Elisha.

Read the passage prayerfully. "Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the Lord: and the creditor is come to take unto

him my two sons to be bondmen. And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not anything in the house, save a pot of oil. Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full. So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out. And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed. Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest" (II Kings 4: 1-7).

How much oil did God give to the widow? Just as much oil as she had vessels for! God had more oil than she had vessels, and the oil did not stop flowing until there was nowhere else to put it.

When this poor mother said to her son, "Bring me yet a vessel"; and when he said to her, "There is not a vessel more"; and when the oil stopped flowing, oh, I am sure she wished she had borrowed more vessels! If she did not have enough to buy all her heart could desire, it was her own fault; for God surely showed that He could furnish the oil according to the vessels provided. And as it was, there was oil enough for her to pay the debt, and then for the widow and her sons to live of the rest.

Dear reader, does not God here teach us that if we would "borrow" these vessels abroad of all thy neighbors, even empty vessels; borrow not a few," we should have them filled? If we prepare the vessels, empty vessels, and not a few of them, the mighty God of Elijah will fill them in answer to prayer. The thought here is certainly kindred to Psalm 81:10, "Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." Bring the empty vessels, and God will fill them!

Time and space would fail us to call to your attention other such marvellous prayers and marvellous answers in the Bible. But for the strengthening of your faith in a mighty God Who delights to answer big prayers, read the story of how Moses prayed and God opened the earth and swallowed up wicked men who challenged his leadership (Numbers 16:25-35). Read how King Hezekiah prayed that heart-moving prayer of faith and how God heard, and "the angel of the Lord went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand; and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses" (Isaiah, chapter 37). Read again how in Hezekiah's sickness when God Himself had told him to prepare to die, Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, ignored the warning of Isaiah, God's prophet, and so prayed that God sent Isaiah back to tell him, "I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years" (Isaiah 38:1-5). Did

(Continued on page 12)

Hoot Mon, Dinna stop me noo!!



GANGWAY! Smiling Sam, the sensible Scotchman, is making a mad dash to the post office with his pre-publication order for Dr. John R. Rice's latest book, *The King of the Jews*, a verse-by-verse commentary of the Gospel of Matthew. This tremendously important book of over 500 large pages will be ready for distribution in a matter of weeks for only \$3.95 per copy, a very nominal sum for such a big book. But Sam knows that he can save nearly a dollar of this price by ordering at once in advance of the publication date. Those who order now will receive the book for only \$3, plus the usual 15c per copy postage and handling charges. It is not necessary to be a Scotchman to see the savings value in this.

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SPECIAL PRE-PUBLICATION PRICE

Big Prayers to an Almighty God

(Continued from page 11)

ever a man pray so boldly! Then the sun turned ten degrees backward on the sun dial (Isaiah 38: 6). Both these marvelous prayers and their mighty answers are recorded also in II Kings, chapters 19, 20.

Any honest heart in reviewing these Scriptures must see that God intended us to be encouraged to pray great prayers. In I Kings chapter 18, we read how God gave fire from Heaven on Mount Carmel and turned the hearts of all the nation back to God again in answer to Elijah's prayer. Then the three and a half year's drought which had come in answer to Elijah's prayer was broken when he prayed again and the Lord gave rain. And how suggestive it is that Elijah is held up to New Testament Christians as our example in faith.

"The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months, and he prayed again and the heaven gave rain and the earth brought forth her fruit" (James 5:16-18).

I suggest it would be a blessed exercise to spend some days in carefully re-reading all the great answers to prayer which you can find in the Bible and meditating upon the mighty promises of God.

III. The Blessings of Big Prayers

Small prayers are the sign of weak faith, and little faith grieves God and does great harm. Remember that Jesus said more than once, in reproof, "O ye of little faith!" (Matt. 6:30; Matt. 8:26; Matt. 14:31; Matt. 16:8; and Luke 12:28). Big prayers show faith in God. And that not only pleases God but brings other blessed results.

1. Glorifies God, Shows His Great Power

First, big praying gives God a chance to show His mighty power and glorify His name. In Nazareth the Lord Jesus Himself could do no mighty works because of their unbelief (Mark 6:5). God is still able, and is still willing to do mighty things; but there are so few people who ask God and believe God and expect big things. God is still the God Who brought His people out of Egypt, but we do not open our mouths wide, and we do not get big bites from God. God still has plenty of oil, but we do not furnish the empty vessels. When Elijah called down the fire from God on Mount Carmel by his prayers, then the people fell on their faces and cried out, "The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God." (I Kings 18:39). And so today unbelief and modernism would be defeated and scattered and multitudes would turn to God, if only there were an Elijah who believed God and could have God's mighty power! Surely God must yearn over man and long to show His power and His love. The Scripture plainly says, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him" (II Chronicles 16:9). God is anxious "to show himself strong." Unbelief abounds because Christians do not give an example by asking great things of God and giving God an opportunity to manifest His mighty power.

We have just closed a campaign for trial subscriptions for *The Sword of the Lord*, (December, 1941) the weekly Christian paper. I set a goal of 5,000 trial four-month subscriptions. In the office my helpers put this goal in large letters on the wall and daily prayed for it, along with other needed blessings, in the prayer meeting each week-day morning at 10:00. Five thousand subscriptions is a good many, and my dear daughter, Grace, a freshman in Wheaton College, said to me about two or three weeks ago, "Daddy, don't you think we set our goals too high, sometimes, and do not reach them?" That got on my mind and heart heavily. So in prayer I said to God, "Lord,

hear my daughter's question. She is young; she hasn't tried You as often as I, Lord, prove the goal is not too high for You. Strengthen her faith; show her You answer her daddy's prayers!" I got victory about it and told her so. Now, this morning, bless God, a letter arrived in Toronto, when I write this, from my secretary at Wheaton, saying, "Praise the Lord! He sent us 5,000 trial subscriptions! Through this morning's mail . . . the total reached 5,000 exactly." God gave exactly what we asked for, not one less nor more. (Later: As I told you in the chapter on *Definite Praying*, when someone thought thirty of these subscriptions were given to 'help God out,' the workers prayed again and received thirty other subscriptions the next day!) My own faith is strengthened, and how happy I am for my dear children to see it. I know God will be more real to them and to my workers as He is to me today because of this remarkable answer to prayer. Big prayers, when answered, stop doubts and glorify God, strengthening Christians and convicting sinners.

2. Big Praying Prospers God's Work

Next, the work of God languishes because of our small asking. Missionaries are called home, fields are closed, church congregations dwindle, revival efforts fail, all because people do not ask for mighty things from God. The Spirit of God is not manifest because people do not ask for Him to show His power. There is no doubt that if there could come a wave of prevailing, mighty prayer, pleading with God, insisting on great things, we should have a mighty revival and the work of God would prosper.

How the Lord's work prospers when we go to God with big requests! One case I shall never forget when God gave a wonderful answer to my prayer, unworthy and unbelieving as I am. In 1938, I believe, I was called to a city in a mid-western state for a revival campaign. After much urging, I felt led to go, and expected great things from word I had received. But lo, when I arrived I found there had been no money to advertise the meetings, few knew about my coming, and besides, I was unknown. A crowd of not more than fifty, I judge, met me the first service. I had promised to stay about ten days, including one Sunday away from my work in Dallas, my radio program, and my paper. Crowds grew slowly; a few were saved. Then the pastor asked me to stay over the second Sunday. "I cannot get you a good offering unless you stay through Sunday," he said. I replied that I did not come for the offering, that I was needed at home for the Sunday night evangelistic services at our church, needed for my Sunday radio broadcast and that I must plan to return after Friday night. Sadly the pastor told how a heavy debt had stripped the people, another payment was about due, and if I did not stay over Sunday he feared the people could not give much. I told him not to worry, that I should not, and after the service that Thursday night I went to my room.

There in my room I faced certain facts, and temptation assailed me. I had expected the offering that would be given to me to go on a heavy printing bill. *The Sword of the Lord*, the weekly evangelistic paper which my heavenly Father helps me publish, has never quite paid expenses. The price of \$1.00 a year will not pay all the postage, printing and wages of workers for such a high-grade weekly paper unless the circulation runs above 10,000 copies weekly regularly. I had borrowed \$450 at the urging of a good Christian lady, for six months. It was overdue, and I must renew the note or pay it. Besides, I owed the printer \$270 for printing *The Sword of the Lord* after I had borrowed the \$450. Then I owed \$200 to another printer for tracts which I had been giving away by thousands. At least \$920 needed to be paid soon, and now I was told that for my ten days'

work it seemed there would be little pay. Satan taunted me with all the sacrifices I had made to carry on the burden of that soul-winning paper, putting into it thousands of dollars I could have used on my family. Satan reminded me that I had refused ever to set a price on my services, that I had no regular salary, and that now this was the way it would turn out.

With tears, that Thursday night I turned to prayer. I reminded God of a covenant I had made with Him in 1926 that He was to look after my business and I would trust Him and look after His, 'seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,' and believing that what I needed He would supply. I remember that I said to God, "Lord, look on the heading of that paper; it has Your name on it, 'THE SWORD OF THE LORD.' Your name is in big type, mine in small type. It is your paper, not mine. I did not save myself; I did not call myself to preach. If You want a paper, You pay the bills. If You do not want that paper, then let it die. It is not my worry; it is Yours. I am not going to stay with this little meeting trying to get a bigger offering, and I am not going to fret or worry. Lord, it is up to You to pay those bills!" And so at last, with peace I went to sleep.

The next night we had some people saved. They took an offering for me. For the ten days' time, the check was \$25.00. They gave me what I asked for expenses, bare railroad fare, without Pullman berth. In sweet peace I took the train that night to Dallas. Though I sleep poorly, as a rule, unless I can stretch out and relax in a regular bed, that night I slept as sweetly as a child in the chair car. The next morning as my train, the Rock Island *Rocket*, left Wichita, Kansas, the porter came through the car holding a telegram, calling my name. I took the telegram, opened it and read from my secretary, "YOU HAVE JUST RECEIVED CHECK FOR ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR YOUR WORK!"

I walked up and down the aisles clutching that telegram, laughing, praising God in my soul! I could hardly refrain from telling the porter, the hostess, the passengers, how God hears prayer! I told old Satan what a liar he was. I told my heavenly Father I would turn that blessed paper over to Him, and that I knew now He would take care of the bills. I promised I would love Him better than before, and oh, may He help me to do it, always!

That thousand dollars came from a man I had never seen. I had never appealed to him, of course, never had written to him, nor received a letter from him, nor have I had a letter or gift from him since, though I have since met the noble good man. And bless God, I have never since been in distress about the printing bills for *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*.

How often the Lord's work suffers and languishes because we do not pray for big things and expect big answers from God! How God longs to bless His work when we believe Him for great things!

3. Big Prayers Get Christians What They Need

And last, God's people live in poverty, in sickness, in disappointment, and defeat, because they do not pray for big things.

I have already told you how, when I preached on prayer in Wheaton, Illinois, the wife of a college professor came to me and said, "I have gone on living without the things I needed because I was afraid to ask God. I was ashamed of my rug with a hole in it but never thought that God would be pleased for me to ask for a new one. I am going home now and ask God for what I need!"

All over the world there are Christians who have no jobs because they have never asked for jobs. There are young people who cannot go to school because they have never taken the matter to God with large faith and insisted on God's showing His power. There are wives whose husbands are unsaved, there are fathers

whose sons are drunkards, and yet they do not pray to God expecting mighty things, and so God does not show His power and do the things which He would so gladly do if people only prayed expectantly, prayed largely, opened their mouths wide so God could fill them!

In 1932 in Dallas, Texas, I had an old Dodge car that was worn out. The upholstery was frayed, the motor used far too much oil; and that winter we had to push the car down hill again and again to get it started. One Monday I nearly missed my radio broadcast, besides I was constantly embarrassed to have my wife and daughters and secretary pushing the car along the wintry streets trying to get it started. So I said to Mrs. Rice, "I believe it would please God for me to ask Him for a new car." She agreed, and we laid the matter before the Lord. I reminded God that He knew I was not laying by a penny and I was working almost night and day trying to win souls. I reminded Him that the work was His work, not my own, and that in 1926 I had made a covenant with Him that I would look after His business and He should look after mine. And so I asked Him that in His own way He would provide me with a new automobile.

On Wednesday night I went to the service in a big furniture building where we were meeting, pending the erection of a building of our own. When the song service was done I went to the pulpit to teach the Scriptures, and a Mr. Reeves handed me an envelope containing some keys and a folded paper or two. I looked at him in bewilderment, and then at the people who were looking on in great joy. They burst into laughter and one and then another began to point to the curb out in front of the building. There stood a new Chevrolet four-door sedan, and in my hand I held the keys and warranty and title. As a surprise to me, the men in the church had bought the car. I think they could not have known about my prayer; certainly I had not told them. And I knew nothing of their plans.

When we went home that night I said to my wife, "If I had known that God was as willing as that to give me an automobile, I would not have been pushing that old wreck up and down these hills day after day trying to get it started!"

And how many of us, dear readers, do not have even what God wants to give us, because we do not expect much from God, do not pray big prayers. We do not open our mouths wide so He can fill them.

It is said that in a southern state at the close of the Civil War a Negro slave, the body servant to a southern gentleman, was set free by Lincoln's proclamation. But his master said to him, "Sam, if you will stay with me and take care of me, I will see that you and cared for when I am gone." The old Negro loved his master and agreed to stay with him, which he did until his master died.

Afterward the colored man mowed lawns, chopped kindling, and ran errands until his legs were stiff and his body bent with rheumatism and age. Then he could hardly get enough work to do to buy the poorest food. He lived in a little shack and hobbled about in rags.

But an old friend of his master's family said to him one day, "Sam, you don't have to live this way, your master told me that he had deposited \$5,000.00 in the bank for you. Go down to the bank and get some money to buy what you need!"

With much persuasion the timid old man decided to go to the bank. With his hat turning nervously in his hand, he inquired of the teller, "Did Marse Tom sho nuff leave me some money in this here bank?" His name was inquired and the bank clerk told him yes that there was money at hand for him and that he might have it whenever he wished.

"How does I git it?" the colored man asked. He was told how to write a check. He could not write, so the teller offered to

write out the check and sign his name and beside it the old man could make his mark.

"Could I get as much as fifty cents to get me a sack of meal?" he inquired, and the teller replied that he could have as much as he wanted within any reasonable limits, since there was \$5,000.00 deposited to his account in the bank.

So the former slave instructed the teller to make out a check for fifty cents, and with trembling hands he made his mark beside his name. Then he took the bright fifty cent piece and shuffled away to buy some meal, and to live in his poor little shack in his rags and poverty, leaving \$4,999.50 in the bank!

And how like us that is! Our heavenly Father says that the gold and silver are His and the cattle on a thousand hills. He has lovingly invited us to tell Him all our needs—"what things soever ye desire when ye pray"—and promised us "great and mighty things which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3), if we will only call upon Him. He asks us to open our mouths wide and let Him fill them. And yet we live at a poor dying rate in our poverty; physical and mental and spiritual poverty. We do not have because we do not ask! Our mouths are never full because we never open them wide!

On a Dallas, Texas, radio one Sunday morning I used the above illustration in speaking on Psalm 81:10. In Fort Worth, thirty-two miles away, a poor, distressed Christian woman was up early to pray. Her prayer was about like this, "Oh, God, please give me \$2.00 or \$3.00 to pay on the gas bill. My husband doesn't have a job, we are behind on the rent, the children do not have enough clothes for school, and I think it will break my heart if they cut off the gas and we have no heat in this winter weather. Please, Lord, I don't ask much, give me \$2.00 or \$3.00 to pay on the gas bill so they won't cut off the gas!"

She arose from her knees, tuned ed on the radio and listened to me in the morning broadcast when I urged Christians to open their mouths wide and told how this old darky got fifty cents when he could have had any amount up to \$5,000.00.

She snapped off the radio and fell on her knees and began to pray. And this is the way she prayed this time, "Oh, God, forgive me for just asking for \$2.00 or \$3.00. You are not poor! You are able to give all we need. Then give my husband a job like other men have! Let us pay the rent and pay all of the gas bill. Give my children school clothes. Lord, many an unsaved mother sends her children to school well clothed. And You have plenty; give my husband a job and let us have what we need. And forgive me for asking so little and expecting so little!"

On the following Tuesday morning we had testimonies in a Bible Conference service at Dallas. From Fort Worth came Mrs. Frank Williams. She stood, and with tears running down her cheeks, she told of the woman and her despairing cry for \$2.00 or \$3.00, then the change in her prayer. And then Mrs. Williams said, "This morning that man went back to work at a full-time job! Already arrangements have been made about the gas bill and the rent, and that mother's prayer has been answered!"

We have a great God. There is nothing too hard for God. He loves us. He wants us to have all we need. Will you today take to heart His blessed promises and begin to pray the kind of prayers that will allow God to do the wonderful things He wants to do for you? Remember what He has promised.

"I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it" (Psalm 81:10).

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3).